

# QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN REVIEWING NURSING HOMES

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Do you have your own therapy services (physical therapy, occupational therapy) or do you subcontract to other agencies to provide services?

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How often do staff members change (turnover rate)?

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Are there licensed personnel (Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses) assigned to the unit where your loved one will be residing?

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Are there regularly scheduled family conferences and opportunities to talk with the staff?

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Does the family have input into the plan of care for your loved one? Might ask to see an actual plan of care for a resident. (Have an 'ideal' care plan available as an example or comparison to use.)

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What type of physician coverage is available at the home? Is there a choice in retaining your own personal physician? How will the physician communicate with family members?

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What types of therapeutic activities are available at the home? How are residents encouraged to participate? What percentage of residents actually participate in scheduled activities? Are any one-to-one or individualized activities available?

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What is the average length of stay? What percentage of residents survive past the first year of their stay?

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What is the infection rate (i.e., pneumonia, infected wounds, skin infections, urinary tract infections) for residents on the unit where your loved one will be staying?

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What system is in place to monitor nutritional status? What protocols are put in place when a resident begins to lose weight?

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How is adequate fluid intake encouraged and monitored?

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What programs, services, or interventions are used to facilitate adequate elimination (toileting)?

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Is there a designated person who will know your loved one well for family members to talk with concerning your loved ones needs and questions you might have?

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Will someone from the home contact you prior to starting any new medications, restrictions, or therapies for your loved one?

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Do they discourage family members from visiting during the first 2–3 weeks of your loved one's stay?

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Family Service Senior Resource Center

## **CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES**

Providing Services to People Caring for Seniors and to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

-- Call 352-5100 or 1-888-858-5195 for more information --