

Checklist for Nursing Homes

The Facility

First impressions are important. What did you think when you first walked in the door?

Does it meet your standards for cleanliness?

Are there any unpleasant odors?

What are the common areas like? Are they bright? Do they have adequate ventilation, are they a comfortable temperature, and are they relatively quiet. Would you be likely to use this room?

Bedrooms

How many residents occupy each room?

Do they have a room available that would be satisfactory for you?

How are roommates matched?

How are the rooms equipped?

Privacy curtain?

A clothes closet?

Bathroom?

Call button?

Comfortable chair?

A television? Can you bring your own?

Food and Dining

Try and eat a meal during the meal time.

Are there different choices in food?

Is the food tasty and appealing?

Do residents eat together in a group setting?

Does the staff help residents with eating if necessary?

If food is delivered to the residents rooms does the staff revisit the room to assist with the meal?

Are meal substitutes such as Ensure available?

Are snacks available?

Activities

Is there a list of activities posted?

Are games and materials supplied?

Are computers available?

Are cultural or religious needs met?

Are there outside activities?

Costs

What is the daily rate for the type of room you desire?

What charges are included?

Laundry?

Beauty/ Barber Shop?

Is there an extra charge for bring your meals to your room?

Residents

Do residents appear to be alert and moving about?

Do they appear to be well groomed?

Care

Who puts the resident's care plan together?

Are residents and family members or outside caretakers encouraged to participate?

Is there a plan for emergency medical treatment if needed?

Can residents receive care from their personal physician?

Are special treatments such as Dialysis available?

Staff

Does the nursing staff administrator appear to helpful and friendly?

Does the staff appear to be:

Respectful?

Courteous?

Friendly?

Do they respond to calls quickly?

Are the following available to assist residents:

An emergency physician?

A social worker or therapist?

A pharmacist/?

Emergency hospital transport?

An adequate number of nursing assistants (each should care for 6-08 residents during the day and evenings shift; 20 on the night shift)?

An adequate number of registered nurses or licensed vocational nurses (each should care for about 15 residents during a day shift; 20 residents on an evening shift; 30 on a night5 shift)?

Safety

Is the facility well lit?

Are tiles or carpet in good condition?

Are exits and fire exits clearly marked?

Are there handrails and grab bars in the hallways and bathrooms?

Are the hallways free of clutter?

Facility Policies

Be sure to get a copy of all written policies, including patient's rights, to review after you leave the facility. On your visit you may want to get specific details about areas that are sometimes sticking points, including: The facilities policy for holding a bed is a resident requires hospitalization.

1)California HealthCare Foundation