

Nursing Home Checklist

Name of nursing home: _____
 Name of facility physician: _____

Meeting Facility Administrators YES NO

- Does the admission agreement call for a waiver or arbitration clause? If so, leave
- Does the home have a clearly POSTED current license from the state?
- If the person needs and is eligible for financial benefits through the Medicare or Medicaid programs, is the home certified to participate in those programs?
- Does the home provide special services, such as specific diet or therapy?
- How often will facility physician provide a routine examination of my loved one?
- Does the facility provide for routine dental services or have an arrangement with a local dental provider?
- Is the administrator courteous and helpful?
- Is there a place for private visits with family and friends?
- Is there a written statement of residents' rights?
- Does the home have arrangements with a nearby hospital for quick transfer of resident in an emergency?
- What company does the home contract with for non-emergency transport to an ER or for hospital admission? ..
- Do the estimated monthly costs (including extra charges) compare favorably with those of other homes?

Atmosphere YES NO

- Are staff members cheerful, courteous and enthusiastic?
- Do staff members show genuine interest in and affection for residents?
- Do residents look well cared for and generally content?
- Is the general atmosphere of the home warm, pleasant and cheerful?
- Do residents, other visitors and volunteers speak favorably about the home?

Physical Considerations YES NO

- Is the nursing home clean and orderly?
- Is the home reasonably free of unpleasant odors?
- Are toilet and bathing facilities easy for disabled patients to use?
- Is the home well-lighted?
- Are rooms well-ventilated and kept at a comfortable temperature?

Safety YES NO

- Are wheelchair ramps provided where necessary?
- Is the home free of obvious hazards, such as obstacles to resident movement, carts and unsteady chairs?
- Are there grab bars in toilet and bathing facilities and handrails on both sides of hallways?
- Do bathtubs and showers have non-slip surfaces?
- Is there automatic emergency lighting?
- Are exits clearly marked and exit signs illuminated?
- Are exit doors unobstructed and unlocked from inside?
- Is an emergency evacuation plan clearly POSTED in prominent locations?
- In case of medical emergencies, is a physician available at all times, either on staff or on call?

Location YES NO

- Is the home near family and friends?

Pharmaceutical Services YES NO

- Are pharmaceutical services supervised by a qualified pharmacist? YES NO
- Is a room set aside for storing and preparing drugs? YES NO
- Does a qualified pharmacist maintain and monitor a record of each resident's drug therapy? YES NO
- What pharmacy do you contract with to fill prescriptions? YES NO

Nursing Services YES NO

- Is at least one registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) on duty day and night? YES NO
- Is an RN on duty during the day, seven days a week? YES NO
- Does an RN serve as director of nursing services? YES NO
- Are nurse or emergency call buttons located at each resident's bed and in toilet and bathing facilities? YES NO

Food Service YES NO

- Is the kitchen clean and reasonably tidy? YES NO
- Is food needing refrigeration left standing out on counters? YES NO
- Is waste properly disposed of? YES NO
- Ask to see the meal schedule. Are there at least three meals served each day? YES NO
- Are meals served at normal hours, with plenty of time for leisurely eating? YES NO
- Are nutritious between-meal and bedtime snacks available? YES NO
- Are residents given enough food? YES NO
- Does the food look appetizing? YES NO
- Sample a meal. Is the food tasty and served at the proper temperature? YES NO
- Does the meal being served match the posted menu? YES NO
- Are special meals prepared for residents who require therapeutic diets? YES NO
- Is there a dining room, and if so, is it attractive and comfortable? YES NO
- Do residents who need help in eating, whether in the dining room or in their own rooms, get it? YES NO

Rehabilitation Therapy YES NO

- Is a full-time program of physical therapy available for residents who apply? YES NO
- If not full time, how many days per week are therapists available? YES NO
- Are there at least two people present during all physical therapy sessions to assist? YES NO
- Are occupational therapy and speech therapy available for residents who need them? YES NO

Social Services and Resident Activities YES NO

- Are there social services available to aid residents and their families? YES NO
- Does the nursing home have a varied program of recreational, cultural and intellectual activities for residents? YES NO
- Is there an activities coordinator on the staff? YES NO
- Are there daily or weekly planned activities? Examples? YES NO
- Is there an activities schedule posted? YES NO
- Is there specific space available for resident activities? YES NO
- Are tools and supplies provided? YES NO
- Are activities offered for residents who are relatively inactive or confined to their rooms? YES NO
- Are some activities scheduled in the evenings? YES NO
- Do residents have an opportunity to attend religious services? YES NO

Residents Rooms YES NO

- Does each room open onto a hallway? YES NO
- Does each room have a window to the outside? YES NO
- Does each resident have a comfortable chair, and closet space and drawers for personal belongings? YES NO
- Is there fresh drinking water within reach? YES NO
- Is there a curtain available to provide privacy for each bed if necessary? YES NO
- Do bathing and toilet facilities have adequate privacy? YES NO

Other Areas of the Nursing Home YES NO

- Is there a lounge where residents can chat, read, play games, watch television away from their rooms? YES NO
- Does the nursing home have an outdoor area where residents can get fresh air and sunshine? YES NO

Financial and Related Matters YES NO

- Is a refund made for unused days paid for in advance? YES NO
- Are visiting hours convenient for residents and visitors? YES NO
- Are allowances made for late visitation when the resident is anxious, upset or in need? YES NO
- Are these and other important matters specified in the contract? YES NO

Notes to Remember