

## Nursing Home Checklist

You are at the starting line. Your Nursing Home Checklist is a handy summary of the key issues that you should consider when evaluating a nursing home, assisted living community, skilled nursing facility, or other community.

### Basic Information

- Yes  No Is the facility Medicare certified?
- Yes  No Is the facility Medi-Cal certified?
- Yes  No Does the home have the level of care needed (e.g., skilled, custodial) and is a bed available?
- Yes  No Is there a waiting period for admission?
- Yes  No Does the home have special service units such as Alzheimer's or Hospice Unit?
- Yes  No Is the home located close enough for family and friends to visit?

### Nursing Home Information

- Yes  No Are the home and the current administrator licensed?
- Yes  No Does the home conduct background checks on all staff?
- Yes  No Does the home have abuse prevention training?
- Yes  No Does all staff wear name tags?
- Yes  No Is there a full-time Registered Nurse (RN) in the home at all times other than the Administrator or Director of Nursing?
- Yes  No Does the guide on your tour know the residents by name

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and do the residents recognize him/her?

- Yes    No   Is there a licensed doctor on staff and is he/she there daily or reachable at all times?
- Yes    No   Has the nursing home management team been together for at least one year?
- Yes    No   Does the staff knock on the door before entering a resident's room and refer to the resident by name?

**Quality of Life**

- Yes    No   Can residents make choices about their daily routine such as when to go to bed or get up, when to bathe or when to eat?
- Yes    No   Is the home free from overwhelming, unpleasant odors?
- Yes    No   Is smoking allowed and is it restricted to certain areas of the nursing home?
- Yes    No   Does the home meet your cultural, religious, or language needs?
- Yes    No   Does the home have good lighting?
- Yes    No   Do the residents' rooms have personal articles and furniture?
- Yes    No   Are noise levels in the dining room and other common areas at a comfortable level?
- Yes    No   Do the residents have a choice of food items at each meal?
- Yes    No   Are there nutritious snacks available upon request?
- Yes    No   Does the staff help residents eat and drink at mealtimes?
- Yes    No   Are there a variety of activities that the residents like?
- Yes    No   Are the residents who are unable to leave their rooms included in activities?

- Yes    No   Does the home have outside volunteer groups?
- Yes    No   Are there areas for the residents to use to be outside?
- Yes    No   Are the public areas nice and available for family gatherings?
- Yes    No   Do the residents have access to a personal television and telephone?
- Yes    No   Do the residents have storage space such as a closet or drawers in their room?
- Yes    No   Are there policies and procedures to protect residents' possessions?

**Quality of Care**

- Yes    No   Can the resident continue to see their personal physician?
- Yes    No   Are the residents clean, appropriately dressed and well groomed?
- Yes    No   Does the staff respond quickly to requests for help?
- Yes    No   Are there handrails in the hallways and grab bars in the bathroom?
- Yes    No   Does the home have an emergency evacuation plan and hold regular fire drills?
- Yes    No   Do the residents get preventive care such as yearly flu shots?
- Yes    No   Is there a chain of command for complaints and if so will you be notified how to reach each person at each level?

