

We have provided the following checklist as a convenient reference for evaluating nursing homes during a visit. Remember, the most important consideration is any choice is the individual's specific situation. Each patient - young, elderly, ambulatory, or bedridden - has different needs, preferences, and desires that need to be taken into consideration in the selection of an appropriate facility.

### **Cleanliness**

- Is the facility as clean as you set your personal standards?
- Is the facility free of unpleasant odors?

### **Patient Rights**

- Does the facility have a written description of patient rights & responsibilities?
- Is staff trained to protect patient dignity and privacy?
- Does the facility have a resident council?

### **Care Planning**

- Are patients and their families involved in developing their own care plan?
- Does the facility provide services for terminally ill patients and their families?
- Does the facility have an Alzheimer's program

### **Staff Attitudes**

- Does staff show interest in and affection for individual patients?
- Is the staff courteous?
- Does staff respond quickly to patient calls for assistance?
- Does staff know patients by name?
- Do staff interact respectfully and in a friendly manner with other staff?

### **Licensure & Certification**

- Does the facility have a current license from the state?
- If needed by the individual, is the facility certified to provide Medicare and/or Medicaid coverage?
- Is the latest state survey available to review?
- Does the administrator have a current state license?

### **Location**

- Is the facility convenient for frequent visits of family and friends?
- Is the facility near a cooperating hospital?
- Is the facility convenient for the patient's personal physician?
- Is the facility near a hospital where the patient's personal physician practices?

### **Costs**

- Are all the services the patient requires covered in the basic daily charge?
- If not, is a list of specific services not covered in the basic rate available?
- Are advance payments returned if the patient leaves the healthcare facility?

### **Your Part**

If you are selecting a nursing home for a loved one, are you:

- involving this person in the choice;
- prepared to ease the patient's transition to the nursing home by being with them on admission day & staying several hours to get them settled?