

The Nursing Home Checklist

Basic Information			
Yes	No		Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the nursing home Medicare-certified?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the nursing home Medicaid-certified?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have a current license from the state?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the latest state survey available for review?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has the nursing home corrected all deficiencies (failure to meet one or more state or Federal requirements) on its last inspection report?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home administrator have a current license from the state?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have the level of care/services needed for this individual?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have a bed available?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home offer specialized services, such as a special unit for care for a resident with dementia or Alzheimer's, or other specialty services?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the location convenient for friends and family to visit?	
Yes	No	Costs	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all services that the resident needs included in the basic daily charge? If not, what services are not covered? (ask for a written list) What changes in resident condition or other reasons will lead to a resident being transferred or discharged from the nursing home?	
Yes	No	Nursing Home Living Spaces	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the nursing home free from overwhelming unpleasant odors?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home appear clean and well kept?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the temperature in the nursing home comfortable?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have good lighting?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the noise levels in the dining room and other common areas comfortable?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is smoking allowed?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If smoking is allowed, is it restricted to certain areas of the nursing home?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the furnishings sturdy, yet comfortable and attractive?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are exits clearly marked?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there quiet areas where residents can visit with friends and family?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all common areas, resident rooms, and doorways designed for wheelchair use?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all common areas, resident rooms, and doorways clear of obstructions?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are handrails and grab bars appropriately placed in the hallways and bathrooms?	
Notes:			

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Yes	No	Staff	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the relationship between the staff and residents appear to be warm, polite, and respectful?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff wear name tags?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff show respect for residents by knocking on the door before entering a resident's room?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff refer to residents by name?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home offer training and education programs for all staff?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home check to make sure they don't hire staff members who have been found guilty of abuse, neglect or mistreatment of residents?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a licensed, registered nurse (RN) present 24 hours a day, 7 days per week?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a person on staff that is assigned to meet social service needs?	
Yes	No	Residents' Rooms	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can residents have personal belongings and furniture in their rooms?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does each resident have storage space (closet and drawers) in his or her room?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does each resident have a window in his or her bedroom?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have access to a personal phone and television?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have a choice of roommates?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there policies and procedures to protect residents' possessions, including lockable cabinets and closets?	
Yes	No	Menus and Food	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have a choice of food items at each meal?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home provide for special dietary needs (like low-salt) or preferences (such as kosher meals)?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are nutritious snacks available upon request?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff help residents eat and drink at mealtimes if help is needed?	
Yes	No	Activities	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can residents, including those who are unable to leave their rooms, choose to take part in a variety of activities?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have a role in planning or choosing activities that are available?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have outdoor areas for resident use?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If so, is the staff available to help residents go outside?	
Notes:			

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Yes	No	Safety and Care	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have an emergency evacuation plan and hold regular fire drills?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have smoke detectors and sprinklers?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have an arrangement with a nearby hospital for emergencies?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the residents clean, well groomed, and appropriately dressed for the season or time of day?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents get preventive care, like a yearly flu shot, to help keep them healthy?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the facility assist in arranging hearing screenings or vision screenings?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are dental services available?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can residents see their personal doctors?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If so, does the facility help in arranging transportation for this purpose?	
		What hospital arrangements do you have for medical emergencies?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are care plan meetings held with residents and family members at times that are convenient and flexible whenever possible?	

Visit Again: It's a good idea to visit the nursing home a second time. It's best to visit a nursing home on a different day of the week and at a different time of day than your initial visit. Staffing can be different at different times of the day and on weekends.

Notes:

Optional - Go to a resident council or family council meeting: While you're visiting the nursing home, ask a member of the resident council if you can attend a resident council or family council meeting. These councils are usually organized and managed by the residents or the residents' families to address concerns for the resident. If you're able to go to a meeting, ask a council member the following questions:

- What improvements were made to the quality of life for residents in the last year?
- What are the plans for future improvements?
- How has the nursing home responded to recommendations for improvement?
- Who does the council report to?
- How does membership on the council work?
- Who sets the agendas for meetings?
- How are decisions made (for example, by voting, consensus, or one person makes them)?