



SKILLED NURSING TOUR CHECKLIST



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Take this handy checklist with you every time you visit a senior living community. It will help you ask the right questions, keep your notes together and is an easy way to compare communities side by side.

When it comes time to choose a senior living community with skilled nursing or a specific level of care, you might feel overwhelmed by all the options available. When making a decision about what is right for you, remember that each short-stay patient or long-term resident has different needs, preferences and desires that should be taken into account when selecting a skilled nursing center.

If you are helping a loved one select a community, you should involve that person in the process if he or she is able. At the end of the day, you want to make sure it is a campus where they feel comfortable and where the focus is on resident needs. By planning ahead, you can ensure that your loved one will be provided with the highest quality of care and quality of life.

When choosing a skilled nursing center, consider all the options. Written materials or websites can be useful tools for comparing your options. If possible, touring the senior living community and asking questions is the best way to determine a good fit. However, telephone interviews using this guide also can be effective. In the end, by researching and reviewing all aspects of care and services, experiencing success in recovery or transitioning to long-term care will be much easier.

At minimum, you should consider the following when making your decision:

- Campus location is convenient
- Environment is friendly and warm
- Meals are well-presented and delicious
- The tone and demeanor of employees is caring and helpful
- Amenities fit your or your loved one's lifestyles and needs

Enjoy your visit!

Community Name _____

Community Contact Person _____

Phone _____

Email _____



LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

Make sure the senior living community with skilled nursing has all the appropriate licensure and certifications. Ask to see, or be directed to a website, to view:

- State license
- Medicare and Medicaid certification
- Latest state survey report

Be sure to ask about:

- A formal quality assurance program
- Any awards or additional certifications that make the senior living community's skilled nursing stand out



STAFF

It is important to inquire about required training and qualifications, in addition to the community's general philosophy. Visiting and personally observing the interactions between staff and patients or residents is a great way to judge your compatibility with the campus community. You can also ask the following:

- How many attending physicians/nurse practitioners are on staff and will they be involved in my care?
- How many RNs are on staff and what is the staffing ratio per patient/resident?
- Do physical, occupational and recreational therapists, as well as speech pathologists, work on staff? How many days a week are they available?



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

While you or your loved one may not have a choice about needing skilled nursing care, understanding the costs and whether you will be covered by Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance is important. If not, you will need to pay for your care out of pocket. Be sure to ask the following questions:

- Will a liaison from the senior living community help determine your eligibility?
- In addition to the cost of the stay, will there be additional fees?
- Who is responsible for fees, such as cable television, telephone, transportation or other services?
- Is there a barber/beautician on-site?
