



A CHECKLIST FOR YOUR IDEAL HOME

CHOOSING THE RIGHT Skilled Nursing Facility

THE LIVING BRANCHES MISSION
Together we empower older adults
and families to lead lives of purpose
and joy, guided by the Mennonite
tradition of care and service to others.

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Choosing a skilled nursing facility for your loved one is an important decision! To help you make the right choice, complete this checklist when you visit each community on your list.

✓ LICENSING

- ☐ Does the facility and its administrator have a current Pennsylvania license?
- ☐ Are licenses displayed in the lobby?

✓ QUALITY

- ☐ Have you reviewed the facility's scores on NursingHome.gov?
- ☐ Does the facility have a formal quality assurance program in place?

✓ SAFETY

- ☐ Does the facility meet state and federal codes?
- ☐ Are written emergency evacuation plans with floor plans posted throughout the building?
- ☐ Are exits clearly marked and unobstructed?
- ☐ Are exit doors unlocked on the inside?
- ☐ Are doors to stairways kept closed?
- ☐ Are fire drills held periodically?
- ☐ Are there hand rails in hallways and grab bars in restrooms?
- ☐ Is the facility well-lit inside?
- ☐ Is the facility free of underfoot hazards?
- ☐ Are chairs sturdy and not easily tipped?
- ☐ Are warning signs posted near wet or waxed floors?

✓ GROUNDS

- ☐ Is there easy access for wheelchairs?
- ☐ Is outdoor furniture available for residents and their visitors?
- ☐ Are the grounds free of hazardous objects?

✓ CLEANLINESS

- ☐ Does the facility meet your personal standards for cleanliness?
- ☐ Is the building free of unpleasant odors?

✓ COMMON AREAS

- ☐ Do common areas meet today's standards for design and comfort?
- ☐ Is the lobby's atmosphere welcoming?
- ☐ Is the furniture attractive and comfortable?
- ☐ Is there a bulletin board with activities posted?
- ☐ Are there rooms for private visits with guests?
- ☐ Are rooms available for resident activities?
- ☐ Are supplies available (games, yarn, etc.)?
- ☐ Are residents using the supplies/equipment?
- ☐ Is the facility part of a larger community?
If so, can residents access events and spaces in those areas?

✓ HALLWAYS

- ☐ Are the hallways wide enough for two wheelchairs to easily pass each other?
- ☐ Are the hallways well-lit?

✓ BEDROOMS

- ☐ Do bedrooms open into halls?
- ☐ Does each resident's room have a window?
- ☐ Is there a privacy drapery for each bed?
- ☐ Is there a nurse call bell by each bed?
- ☐ Is there at least one comfortable chair per resident?
- ☐ Is there a clothes closet or separate set of drawers for each resident?
- ☐ Is there easy access to each bed?
- ☐ Is there enough room for a wheelchair to maneuver?
- ☐ Is care used in matching roommates?

✓ BATHROOMS

- ☐ Are toilets convenient to bedrooms?
- ☐ Are they easy for a wheelchair user to access?
- ☐ Is there a sink in each bathroom?
- ☐ Are nurse call bells located near each toilet?
- ☐ Are there hand grips on or near toilets?
- ☐ Do bathtubs and showers have non-slip surfaces and hand grips?

✓ FAITH

- ☐ Are residents able to worship as they please?
- ☐ Are residents able to access religious services of other faiths?
- ☐ Are pastors or chaplains available to residents and their families?

✓ DINING

- ☐ Are dining areas attractive and inviting?
- ☐ Are tables accessible for wheelchair users?
- ☐ Are residents given adequate time to eat?
- ☐ Do those who need help eating receive it?
- ☐ Is food tasty and attractively served?
- ☐ Do meals match posted menus?
- ☐ Does a dietitian plan menus for special diets?
- ☐ Are personal likes and dislikes considered?
- ☐ Does the menu vary from meal to meal?
- ☐ Are snacks available?
- ☐ Is food delivered to those not eating in the dining room?
- ☐ Are warm foods served warm?

✓ MEDICAL CARE

- ☐ Is a physician available in an emergency?
- ☐ Is regular medical attention assured?
- ☐ Are medical records stored electronically?
- ☐ Is confidentiality of records assured?
- ☐ Are residents involved in plans for treatment?
- ☐ Are other medical services available (dentist, podiatrist, audiologist, etc.)?

✓ HOSPITALIZATION

- ☐ Does the facility have an arrangement with a nearby hospital?
- ☐ Is emergency transportation readily available?

✓ CARE PLANNING

- ☐ Does the facility provide services for terminally ill residents and their families?
- ☐ Does the facility offer care for residents living with dementia?
- ☐ Does the facility care for residents who are mentally or developmentally disabled?

✓ SOCIAL SERVICES

- ☐ Is a social worker available to residents?

✓ PHARMACY

- ☐ Are routine and emergency drugs available?
- ☐ Does a pharmacist review drug regimens?
- ☐ Is a pharmacist available for staff and resident consultation?

✓ THERAPY

- ☐ Is a physical therapy room available and under the direction of a credentialed physical therapist?
- ☐ Are occupational, speech, restorative, and creative arts therapists available?

✓ RESIDENT RIGHTS

- ☐ Does the facility have a written description of resident rights and responsibilities?
- ☐ Are staff members trained to protect resident dignity and privacy?
- ☐ Does the facility have a resident council?

✓ LIFE ENRICHMENT

- ☐ Are resident preferences considered when planning activities?
- ☐ Is a variety of activities offered each month?
- ☐ Are group and individual activities offered?
- ☐ Are residents encouraged to participate?
- ☐ Are outside trips planned?
- ☐ Do volunteers work with residents?

✓ HYGIENE AND GROOMING

- ☐ If needed, do staff help with bathing, grooming, dressing, and using the restroom?
- ☐ Are hair stylists available to residents?

✓ STAFF ENGAGEMENT

- ☐ Do staff members show interest in and affection for individual residents?
- ☐ Are staff members courteous?
- ☐ Do staff members respond quickly to resident calls for assistance?
- ☐ Do staff members know residents by name?
- ☐ Is the administrator available to answer questions or discuss problems?

✓ COSTS

- ☐ Are all services covered in the daily charge? If not, is a list available of specific services not covered in the basic rate?
- ☐ Are advance payments returned if the resident leaves the facility?
- ☐ If Medicare and/or Medicaid coverage is needed, is the facility certified to provide it?