

CHOOSING ASSISTED LIVING

For Loved Ones with Dementia or Alzheimer's

This checklist is meant to assist you in finding the best care for your loved one with dementia or Alzheimer's. Complete this checklist for each community you're considering and compare your answers. By the end, you should have a clearer picture of which senior living community is right for your loved one.

Overall Impressions of the Community

- Is the distance to and from your location convenient for you? For friends?
- What is your first impression when you arrive?
- Would you feel comfortable with your loved one living here?
- Do they receive positive reviews from caregivers and/or residents?
- What levels of Alzheimer's or Dementia is the community able to accommodate?

NOTES

Services Available

- What levels of care does the community have?
 - Skilled Nursing
 - Assisted Living
 - Personal Care
 - Is the Community a CCRC?
- Does the community provide memory support services? What are those services?
- Does the community provide therapy?
- How does the community treat behavioral changes due to Alzheimer's or dementia?
- How does the community treat sleep changes?
- Can the community accommodate any special needs your loved one has?
- Does the community have any special treatment options?

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Life at the Community

- What activities are available for your loved one?
- Does the community have a Masterpiece Living program?
- Are their activities tailored to the needs of someone with Alzheimer's and dementia?
- Does the community utilize "memory boxes" on residents' doors?
- Is the memory care area separate from other areas of the community?
- Are doors, rooms, and hallways labeled clearly to help residents?
- What methods are used to make sure residents don't wander off the grounds?
- Is there good, even lighting in hallways and common areas?
- Are the rooms private or shared?
- Are there any rules for visitors?

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Certifications

- What certifications does the community have? Some potential ones are:
 - AAHSA Quality First
 - CARF-CACC Accreditation
 - CMS Star Rating
- What Alzheimer's treatment certifications does the staff have?
- Does the facility meet any state requirements for Alzheimer's or dementia care?

Costs and Resources

- What are the monthly costs?
- What part of the monthly costs are covered by the secondary insurance plan of your loved one?
- How and when will Medicaid be used for assistance with paying costs?
- What physician group or individual doctor care will be provided whenever needed?
- Is the facility for-profit or non-profit?

NOTES

While this list is a great start to discovering the best possible care for your loved one suffering from Alzheimer’s or dementia, there is no substitute for visiting, touring, and asking current residents questions about their life in the community.

Remember to bring this checklist with you to each community you visit and compare them afterwards.

NOTES



To find a Presbyterian Senior Living Community near you, please visit our Community Finder:

<http://www.presbyterianseniorliving.org/community-finder>

Find A Community