

TIPS



Make an appointment with the nursing home for a tour. However, after the tour, on another day, show up during meal times or early in the morning to view the facility and its staff.



Generally, Medicare reimbursed skilled care is available only for a short period of time after a hospitalization. Custodial care is for the duration. Ask the billing office for details.



Check the “Nursing Home Compare” or Nursing Home Watch” websites for DOH survey results by logging onto www.pierrolaw.com and clicking on “Nursing Home Info”.

Does the home have an emergency evacuation plan and hold regular fire drills?

yes no

Do residents get preventive care such as yearly flu shots?

yes no

Is there a Chain of Command for complaints and if so will you be notified how to reach each person at each level?

yes no

Are staff in uniforms that differentiate between house-keeping staff, aides, LPN's and RN's?

yes no

Additional Comments:

Facility Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



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Nursing Home Checklist



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Basic Information

Is the facility Medicare certified?
 yes no

Is the facility Medicaid certified?
 yes no

Does the home have the level of care needed (e.g. skilled, custodial) and is a bed available?
 yes no

Is there a waiting period for admission?
 yes no

Does the home have special services units such as Alzheimer's or Hospice Unit?
 yes no

Is the home located close enough for family and friends to visit?
 yes no

Is there a licensed doctor on staff and is he/she there daily or reachable at all times?
 yes no

Has the nursing home management team been together for at least one year?
 yes no

Does the staff knock on the door before entering a residents room and refer to the resident by name?
 yes no

Quality of Life

Can residents make choices about their daily routine such as when to go to bed or get up, when to bathe or when to eat?
 yes no

Is the home free from overwhelming unpleasant odors?
 yes no

Is smoking allowed and is it restricted to certain areas of the nursing home?
 yes no

Does the home meet your cultural, religious, or language needs?
 yes no

Does the home have good lighting?
 yes no

Do the resident's rooms have personal articles and furniture?
 yes no

Are noise levels in the dining room and other common areas at a comfortable level?
 yes no

Do residents have a choice of food items at each meal?
 yes no

Are their nutritious snacks available upon request?
 yes no

Does the staff help resident eat and drink at mealtimes?
 yes no

Are there a variety of activities that the resident likes?
 yes no

Are the residents who are unable to leave their room included in activities?
 yes no

Does the home have outside volunteer groups?
 yes no

Are there areas for the residents to use to get outside?
 yes no

Are the public areas nice and available for family gatherings?
 yes no

Does the resident have access to a personal television and telephone?
 yes no

Does each resident have storage space such as a closet or drawers in their room?
 yes no

Are there policies and procedures to protect resident's possessions?
 yes no

Nusing Home Information

Is the home and the current administrator licensed?
 yes no

Does the home conduct background checks on all staff?
 yes no

Does the home have abuse prevention training?
 yes no

Do all staff wear name tags?
 yes no

Is there a full-time Registered Nurse (RN) in the home at all times other than the Administrator or Director of Nursing?
 yes no

Does the guide on your tour know the residents by name and does the resident recognize him/her?
 yes no

Quality of Care

Can the resident continue to see their personal physician?
 yes no

Are the residents clean, appropriately dressed, and well groomed?
 yes no

Does the Nursing Home staff respond quickly to requests for help?
 yes no

Are there handrails in the hallways and grab bars in the bathroom?
 yes no

(cont'd on other side)