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CARING FOR YOUR ELDERLY RELATIVES

NURSING HOME CHECKLIST

The thought of placing a loved one in a nursing home does not often occur without reservations about the type of care your loved one would receive. If you have decided to place your elderly relative in a nursing home or merely want to tour some homes to determine your options, the sample checklist will provide you with some of the questions that will assist you in finding the best care facilities for your relative.

*While (or after) visiting each potential nursing home,
consider the following questions:*

	Yes	No
Is the home Medicare-certified?	_____	_____
Is the home Medicaid-certified?	_____	_____
Is the home currently accepting new patients?	_____	_____
Is there a waiting list? How long? _____	_____	_____
Is the home licensed by the state?	_____	_____
Is the home's administrator licensed?	_____	_____
Does the home conduct background checks on all staff?	_____	_____
Does the home offer abuse-prevention and other special training?	_____	_____
Is the interaction between the staff and patients cordial and respectful?	_____	_____
Are residents allowed to make choices about their daily routine? (e.g., when to get up, go to bed, or eat?)	_____	_____
May the residents choose from a variety of activities?	_____	_____
Is it easy for friends and family to visit the home?	_____	_____
Does the home look and smell clean?	_____	_____
Is the home well-lighted?	_____	_____
Is the home maintained at a comfortable temperature?	_____	_____
Are the residents allowed to have personal furnishings in their rooms?	_____	_____
Do the residents' rooms have comfortable furniture?	_____	_____
Are there drawers and closets for the residents' clothing?	_____	_____
Are there pull-curtains around the residents' beds for privacy?	_____	_____

	Yes	No
Do the public areas have comfortable furnishings?	_____	_____
Is the dining room clean, quiet, and cheerful?	_____	_____
Does the home have outdoor areas for the residents' use?	_____	_____
Are residents encouraged to go outside?	_____	_____
Are the residents clean, appropriately dressed, and well groomed?	_____	_____
Does the staff respond quickly to calls for help?	_____	_____
Does there appear to be a good relationship between the staff and the administrator?	_____	_____
Do the residents have the same caregivers on a regular basis?	_____	_____
Is there enough staff on duty at all times, including nights, weekends, and holidays?	_____	_____
Is a hospital nearby in case of emergencies?	_____	_____
Are care plan meetings held at times convenient to the residents and their families?	_____	_____
Is there enough staff to help the residents eat?	_____	_____
Are the residents offered food choices at each meal?	_____	_____
Does the food look and smell appetizing?	_____	_____
Does the staff regularly monitor the residents' weight?	_____	_____
Is drinking water readily available?	_____	_____
Does the staff encourage and help the residents to drink?	_____	_____
Are nutritious snacks available throughout the day?	_____	_____
Are there handrails in the halls?	_____	_____
Are there grab bars and call buttons in the bathrooms?	_____	_____
Are exits clearly marked?	_____	_____
Are spills quickly cleaned up?	_____	_____
Are halls well lighted and free of clutter?	_____	_____
Are there adequate smoke detectors and a sprinkler system?	_____	_____
Is there a high turnover among staff?	_____	_____

	Yes	No
Is most of the care provided by medically trained staff?	_____	_____
May the residents continue to be treated by their personal physicians?	_____	_____
How is regular medical attention assured?	_____	_____
Are other medical services available? (e.g., optometric, dental, etc.?)	_____	_____
Is there a pharmacist on the staff?	_____	_____
Is there a physical therapist on the staff?	_____	_____
Is there an occupational therapist on the staff?	_____	_____
Is there a social worker available to residents and their families?	_____	_____
Are barbers and beauticians available?	_____	_____
How are disputes resolved?	_____	_____
How does the home match roommates?	_____	_____
Are single rooms available?	_____	_____
Are religious services available?	_____	_____
Would I be comfortable leaving my loved one in this home?	_____	_____
Is the location convenient for family visits?	_____	_____
Has a state agency found an unusual number of violations at this home?	_____	_____
Have residents or their families filed a lot of complaints?	_____	_____
Are other residents and their families happy with the care at the home?	_____	_____
Is the cost reasonable in comparison to other homes?	_____	_____