



Nursing Home Checklist



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 Know before you go. The Facts of Georgia's Health Care.

Name of Facility: _____

Use this checklist to help evaluate nursing home facilities and to find the one that best fits your needs. You should not rely solely on your memory during these important visits. The more detail of your observations you provide here, the better you will be able to compare and contrast facilities with one another.

What to Look for When You Visit a Nursing Home	Yes	No	Comments
Basic Information			
Is the nursing home Medicare-certified? <i>Medicare is a social insurance program administered by the U.S. government that provides health insurance coverage to people who are aged 65 and over, or who meet other special criteria.</i>			
Is the nursing home Medicaid-certified? <i>Medicaid is a jointly funded, federal-state health insurance program for low-income and needy people. It covers children, the aged, blind and/or disabled.</i>			
Does the nursing home have the level of care you need (e.g. skilled, custodial), and a bed is available?			
Does the nursing home have special services if needed in a separate unit (e.g. dementia, or rehabilitation), and an available bed?			
Is the nursing home located close enough for friends and family to visit?			
Resident Appearance			
Are the residents clean, appropriately dressed for the season or time of day and well groomed?			

	Yes	No	Comments
Nursing Home Living Spaces			
Is the nursing home free from overwhelming unpleasant odors?			
Does the nursing home appear clean and well-kept?			
Is the temperature in the nursing home comfortable for residents?			
Does the nursing home have good lighting?			
Are noise levels in the dining room and other common areas comfortable?			
Does the facility's smoking policies meet your needs?			
Are furnishings sturdy, yet comfortable and attractive?			
Staff			
Does the relationship between the staff and the residents appears to be warm, polite and respectful?			
Does staff wear name tags?			
Does the staff knock on the door before entering a resident's room and refers to residents by name?			
Does the nursing home offer a training and continuing education program for all staff?			
Does the nursing home do background checks on all staff?			
Does the guide on your tour knows the residents by name and is recognized by them?			
Are the number of hours per day that a Registered Nurse (RN) is in the facility meet your needs?			
Does the same team of nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) work with the same resident four to five days per week?			
Do CNAs work with a reasonable number of residents?			
Are CNAs involved in care planning meetings?			
Is there a full-time social worker on staff?			
Does the number of hours the medical director available meets your needs?			
Has the nursing home's management team (including the Director of Nursing and the Administrator) worked together for at least one year?			

	Yes	No	Comments
Residents' Rooms			
Can residents have personal belongings and furniture in their rooms?			
Does each resident have storage space (closet and drawers) in his or her room?			
Does each resident have a window in his or her bedroom?			
Do residents have access to a personal telephone and television?			
Do residents have a choice of roommates?			
Are water pitchers available to the residents in their rooms, are they frequently refilled and can they be reached by residents?			
Are there policies and procedures to protect residents' possessions?			
Hallways, Stairs, Lounges and Bathrooms			
Are exits clearly marked?			
Are there quiet areas where residents can visit with friends and family?			
Does the nursing home have smoke detectors and sprinklers?			
Are all common areas, resident rooms and doorways designed for wheelchair use?			
Are there handrails in the hallways and grab bars in the bathrooms?			
Menus and Food			
Do residents have a choice of food items at each meal?			
Are nutritious snacks available upon request?			
Does staff help residents eat and drink at mealtimes if help is needed?			

	Yes	No	Comments
Activities			
Are residents, including those who are unable to leave their rooms, allowed to participate in a variety of activities?			
Does the nursing home have outdoor areas for resident use and do the staff help residents go outside?			
Does the nursing home has an active volunteer program?			
Safety and Care			
Does the nursing home have an emergency evacuation plan and holds regular fire drills (bed-bound residents included)?			
Do residents get preventive care, such as a yearly flu shot, to help keep them healthy?			
Can residents still see their personal doctors?			
Does the nursing home have an arrangement with a nearby hospital for emergencies?			
Are care plan meetings held with residents and family members at times that are convenient whenever possible?			
Are state inspection reports easy to locate and accessible to residents and families?			

Notes:

You can use the "Search For Care" application on the georgiahealthinfo.gov Web site to find a nursing home in your area.

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.