Making Sure that Nursing Homes Meet Your Standards by Kaycee Bishop

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For elders or for patients with long term care needs who require 24/7 skilled medical care but do not want to be confined in the hospital, nursing homes will be the perfect choice for care setting. Most families would consider performing the tasks of family caregivers first, but however, special care needs for those with physical illness, disability, or a cognitive impairment may require more professional care.

Nursing homes can be a good choice as they provide both skilled and custodial care. Skilled care is for patients with conditions that need professional medical care, like nursing assistance or therapy services. Moreover, custodial care, or personal care is given to help patients perform their daily self-tasks or activities of the daily living (ADLs).

Of course, families only want the best care for their loved ones. Money may be a big consideration, but most would not sacrifice their elderâ€™s quality care and living comfort. In searching for a place for health care, it is suggested that you come up with a set of checklist that can summarize your considerations and standards. This can help them better assess if a particular nursing home can meet the quality measures they set, and above all, provide the required special or extended care that their seniors need.

For those who do not have a time in visiting the place personally, a nurse navigator can help them decide among nursing homes. However, it will be better that you take some time and effort to see the home for yourself before deciding to just send your senior in. It will be even greater if you take your elder along so he or she can have a feel of the place and tell you instantly if he or she likes it there or not.

The Nursing Home Checklist

Given the fact that there are a lot of choices, selection can be quicker and easier through the help of a guide. However, before making the checklist, try to make a shortlist first of your at least top 3 or top 5 choices.

How to make the shortlist?

1. Among all the possible choices, try to choose which among them are the nearest to your location or most accessible from your location.

2. Next, from that list, narrow it depending on which among them suits your budget.

So now, you have a nursing home that is near your place and at the same time will not drain your financial resources. Then, depending on how many choices you are left with, make a checklist for each of them. Be sure to bring them along when you personally visit the setting.

The checklist should include basic information such as the placeâ€™s background, services offered, and certification from Medicare or Medicaid. Also, check out the residentâ€™s room and spaces. Are they properly maintained, free from odor and dirt? Are they well-lighted, well-ventilated, and comfortable for the residents? These spaces checklist should cover all common areas as well as hallways, stairs, lounges, and bathrooms.

Similarly, be sure to also check on the license and certifications of the staff in the nursing homes.

Do they have the right skills to provide the needed care of their residents? Other important things you should also look at are the variety of menus and food catered to the resident as well as the activities designed for the residents.

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Choosing the right a nursing homes can be done easily when you use our nurse navigator or by simply making a list of the characteristics of a good nursing facility.

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