

Checklist to Help Find the Ideal Senior Living Community

General:

- Is the community licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services?
- Does the community have an executive director with proper licensing?
- Are the residents' rights clearly displayed?
- Does the community have designated visiting hours?
- Has the community addressed any deficiencies found during the most recent state inspection?

Physical Environment:

- Does the community maintain a clean, organized, and well-kept environment?
- Is the atmosphere warm, welcoming, and uplifting?

Staff & Resident Relations:

- Are staff members friendly, respectful, and enthusiastic?
- Do the residents appear content, well-groomed, and properly cared for?
- Can residents personalize their living spaces and keep personal belongings?
- What do residents and visitors say about the community?
- Are background checks conducted on all new staff members?

Healthcare & Support Services:

- Is there sufficient nursing staff to attend to residents' needs?
- Is a physician available on-site or on-call?
- Are dental services accessible to residents?
- Are specialized services like rehabilitation therapy or prescribed therapeutic diets available?
- Are residents and their families involved in care planning?

Pharmacy Services:

- Does a qualified pharmacist oversee and monitor residents' medication records?
- Are preventive care measures, such as flu vaccinations, available to residents?

Dining Experience:

- Are meal choices offered to residents?
- Is the food visually appealing and aromatic?
- Can residents request snacks?
- Are special meals available for those on prescribed therapeutic diets?
- Is the dining area inviting and comfortable?
- Do staff members assist residents who need help with dining?

Social & Recreational Opportunities:

- Does the community offer a diverse range of recreational, cultural, and intellectual activities?
- Can residents attend religious services?
- Can the community provide you with an activity calendar to review?

Resident Living Spaces:

- Are the bathrooms designed to ensure privacy?
- Are nurse call buttons and emergency systems easily accessible in both bedrooms and bathrooms?
- Is there a cozy lounge for residents to socialize, read, play games, watch TV, or relax?
- Does the community have outdoor areas for residents to enjoy fresh air and sunshine?

Financial Aspects:

- Is the community Medicare and/or Medicaid certified?
- What services are included in the basic fees?
- Does the contract clearly outline costs, admission date, services provided, and discharge or transfer conditions?