



Nursing Home Checklist

Name of nursing home: _____ Date of visit: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Telephone number: _____ Email: _____

Contact person: _____

Note: Not all of the following are facility requirements, but markers of good care.

General Information	Yes	No	Comments:
Medicare certified?			
Medicaid (called Medi-Cal in CA) certified?			
Offers the needed level of care (skilled, custodial, etc.) or special services in a separate unit (dementia, ventilator, rehabilitation)			
Bed available?			
Located close enough for friends and family to visit.			
Is the nursing home listed on The National Nursing Home Watch List. The url for the state-by-state list of nursing homes is The url for the California Watch List is www.memberofthefamily.net/ca.htm)			
Check the violation status of any California nursing home at Nursing Home Guide (http://www.nursinghomeguide.org/NHG/nhg_txt_home.lasso) created by the California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform™.			

Appearance of Residents	Yes	No	Comments
Residents are clean, appropriately dressed for the season or time of day and well groomed			
Nursing Home Living Spaces	Yes	No	Comments
The nursing home is free from overwhelming, unpleasant odors			
The nursing home appears clean and well kept.			
The temperature in the nursing home is comfortable for residents.			
The nursing home has good lighting.			
Noise levels in the dining room and other common areas are comfortable.			
Smoking is not allowed or is restricted to certain areas of the nursing home.			
Furnishings are sturdy, yet comfortable and attractive.			
Staff	Yes	No	Comments
The relationship between the staff and the residents appears to be warm, polite and respectful.			
All staff wears nametags.			
Staff knocks on the door before entering a resident's room and refers to residents by name.			
The nursing home offers a training and continuing education program for all staff.			
The nursing home does background checks on all staff.			
The guide on your tour knows the residents by names and is recognized by them.			

There is a full-time registered nurse (RN) in the nursing home at all times other than the administrator or director of nursing.			
The same team of nurses and certified nursing assistants (CNAs) work with the same resident 4 to 5 days per week.			
CNAs work with a reasonable number of residents.			
CNAs are involved in care planning meetings.			
There is a full-time social worker on staff.			
There is a licensed doctor on staff. Is he or she there daily? Can he or she be reached at all times?			
The nursing home's management team has worked together for at least one year.			
Residents' Rooms	Yes	No	Comments
Residents may have personal belongings and/or furniture in their rooms.			
Each resident has storage space (closet and drawers) in his or her room.			
Residents have access to a personal telephone and television.			
Residents have a choice of roommates.			
Water pitchers can be reached by residents.			
There are policies and procedures to protect resident's possessions.			
Hallways, Stairs, Lounges and Bathrooms	Yes	No	Comments
Exits are clearly marked.			
There are quiet areas where residents can visit with friends and family.			
The nursing home has smoke detectors and sprinklers.			

All common areas, residents' rooms, and doorways are designed for wheelchair use.			
There are handrails in the hallways and grab bars in the bathrooms.			
Menus and Food	Yes	No	Comments
Residents have a choice of food items at each meal. (Ask about whether favorite foods are served.)			
Nutritious snacks are available upon request.			
Staff helps residents eat and drink at mealtimes, if help is needed.			
Activities	Yes	No	Comments
Residents, including those who are unable to leave their rooms, may choose to take part in a variety of activities.			
The nursing home has outdoor areas for resident use and staff helps residents go outside.			
The nursing home has an active volunteer program.			
Safety and Care	Yes	No	Comments
The nursing home has an emergency evacuation plan and holds regular fire drills.			
Residents get preventive care, like a yearly flu shot, to keep them healthy.			
Residents may still see their personal doctors.			
The nursing home has an arrangement with a nearby hospital for emergencies.			
Care plan meetings are held at times that are convenient for residents and family members to attend whenever possible.			

The nursing home has corrected all deficiencies (failure to meet one or more federal or state requirements) on its last state inspection report.			
Financial Considerations			
Cost per month			
Insurance contribution			
Medicare contribution			

Other observations or comments: