

Top Questions to Ask About Nursing Home Medical Care - Checklist

When choosing a nursing home, it's critical to evaluate the quality of medical care provided. These questions will help you assess the nursing home's capabilities, staffing, and processes to ensure your loved one receives the best possible care and attention.

How to use this checklist: Check off each question as you ask it, and use the note lines to record important answers and observations.

Medical Care Services

☐ 1. What medical services are available on-site?

Knowing the on-site medical capabilities is important to meet your loved one's specific healthcare needs.

Notes:

☐ 2. How often are residents seen by a physician?

Frequent, proactive medical oversight is key to identifying and addressing issues quickly.

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☐ 3. What types of therapy services are offered (physical, occupational, speech, etc.)?

Access to a range of therapeutic services can help maintain or improve your loved one's health and independence.

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□ **4. How are medication management and administration handled?**

Proper medication management is critical to avoid errors and ensure residents receive the right treatments.

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□ **5. What is the process for handling medical emergencies?**

Understanding the nursing home's emergency protocols can provide peace of mind that your loved one will receive prompt, appropriate care.

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Nursing Staff

□ 1. What is the staff-to-resident ratio, especially for nursing staff?

Adequate staffing levels are essential for attentive, individualized care.

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□ 2. What are the qualifications and training requirements for nursing staff?

Highly trained, experienced nurses are better equipped to identify and manage complex medical conditions.

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□ 3. How do staff communicate with residents and families about care plans and updates?

Open, regular communication helps ensure everyone is informed and aligned on your loved one's needs and progress.

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□ **4. What is the nursing home's staff turnover rate?**

High staff turnover can disrupt continuity of care and lead to less personalized attention for residents.

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□ **5. Are there any concerns about staffing shortages or reliance on temporary/contract staff?**

Consistent, qualified staffing is crucial for quality of care and resident safety.

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Resident Care Processes

□ 1. How are resident care plans developed and updated?

Comprehensive, personalized care plans ensure your loved one's unique needs are met.

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□ 2. What is the process for addressing new or changing medical conditions?

Prompt identification and treatment of health issues can prevent complications and promote better outcomes.

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□ 3. How does the nursing home monitor residents' health and respond to concerns?

Proactive, attentive monitoring helps catch problems early before they escalate.

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□ **4. What infection control measures are in place?**

Robust infection control protocols protect vulnerable residents from preventable illnesses.

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□ **5. How does the nursing home promote resident dignity, autonomy, and quality of life?**

Ensuring personalized care that preserves residents' independence and well-being is crucial.

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Quality Assurance

□ 1. What regulatory inspections and audits does the nursing home undergo?

Regular inspections help ensure the nursing home meets all applicable quality and safety standards.

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□ 2. What is the nursing home's quality of care rating and history of deficiencies?

Quality ratings and regulatory compliance history provide valuable insight into the nursing home's performance.

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□ 3. How does the nursing home handle and resolve complaints or concerns from residents and families?

The nursing home's responsiveness and accountability in addressing issues is a key indicator of quality care.

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□ **4. What ongoing staff training and development programs are in place?**

Continuous learning and improvement initiatives help ensure staff are equipped to provide the best possible care.

Notes:

□ **5. How does the nursing home measure and report on key quality metrics?**

Transparent reporting on quality indicators allows you to evaluate the nursing home's performance.

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