

Nursing Home Comparison Checklist

Name of Nursing Home A: _____

Name of Nursing Home B: _____

Name of Nursing Home C: _____

Questions to Ask:

Does the nursing home have a current state license on display?

A	B	C
_____	_____	_____

Does the administrator have an up-to-date state license?

_____	_____	_____
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Does the nursing home have a history of serious violations? (Check with your state ombudsman or ask the home for a copy of its latest survey report.)

_____	_____	_____
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Is the nursing home certified for Medicare or Medicaid? (Even if these programs are not important to you now, they may be in the future.)

_____	_____	_____
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Do residents seem happy?

_____	_____	_____
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Is the location convenient to family and friends?

_____	_____	_____
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Is the location convenient to the patient's physician?

_____	_____	_____
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Is it near a hospital?

_____	_____	_____
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Is a Patients' Bill of Rights posted in plain sight?

_____	_____	_____
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Are there handrails in the hallways, grab bars in bathrooms and other features aimed at accident prevention?

_____	_____	_____
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Are toilet facilities raised and doors designed to accommodate residents in wheelchairs?

_____	_____	_____
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Are wheelchair ramps provided indoors as well as outdoors?

_____	_____	_____
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Are hallways wide enough to permit two wheelchairs to pass with ease?

_____	_____	_____
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Are there clearly marked exits and unobstructed paths to these exits?

_____	_____	_____
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Are there fire extinguishers, automatic sprinklers and smoke detectors throughout? Are they checked annually? Have they recently been checked?

_____	_____	_____
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Is there emergency lighting in rooms and halls?

_____	_____	_____
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Is the furniture sturdy?

_____	_____	_____
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Nursing Home Comparison Checklist (continued)

Is a physician available at all times for emergencies?	_____	_____	_____
Is there security to prevent confused residents from wandering away from the building?	_____	_____	_____
Is the nursing home clean, well maintained and odor-free?	_____	_____	_____
Is a licensed dietitian on the premises often enough to provide adequate supervision of planning and preparation of meals? (<i>Ask to see the kitchen area in order to observe cleanliness.</i>)	_____	_____	_____
Is a weekly menu plan available? Are the meals nutritious and tasty?	_____	_____	_____
Does the staff assist residents who have difficulty feeding themselves?	_____	_____	_____
Is the staff friendly, available, caring and accommodating to residents and visitors?	_____	_____	_____
Is there an activity room where residents can read, do crafts, play games or socialize?	_____	_____	_____
Are physical therapy and rehabilitative services available?	_____	_____	_____
Is a list of references available?	_____	_____	_____
Would this nursing home provide the best possible care for your loved one?	_____	_____	_____

This worksheet is part of "Life Advice: Nursing Homes" at www.lifeadvice.com.