

FRIA'S NURSING HOME CHECKLIST

APPENDIX J

Take this checklist with you when visiting and evaluating nursing homes to use as a guide. You should refer to *Chapter Five*, "Informed Choices: How to Select A Nursing Home" to understand why these questions are important and to add questions that are relevant to your relative's preferences and needs. It is unrealistic to think that every question will be answered in one visit. Include your relative, as much as possible, in the selection process and focus on questions that are important to her.

Name of Nursing Home _____ Date of Visit _____

LOCATION/APPEARANCE	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
How convenient is public transportation to the home? Is parking available?	
What does the neighborhood look like? Will visitors feel comfortable coming here?	
Is the facility home-like or institutional?	
Is it well maintained, clean, well-lit, and free of unpleasant odors and hazards?	
Do residents' have personal belongings decorating their rooms?	
Is the home sensitive to ethnically or culturally diverse and alternative lifestyles?	
RESIDENTS	COMMENTS / OBSERVATIONS
Are residents clean, dressed, and well-groomed?	
Are any residents in restraints or do any appear heavily sedated?	
STAFF	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
Do you see staff members actively assisting residents?	

Is there a sufficient ratio of aides to residents on each unit, especially at night and on weekends?	
Are nursing home workers neatly dressed and well-groomed with name badges displayed?	
Do staff members, including doctors, social workers, and others speak respectfully to the residents?	
Do staff members speak your relative's language? Do they know how to access resources and sources of support particular to resident's lifestyle, community or culture?	
FOOD	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
Does the food look and taste appetizing?	
Do residents who need help with eating get prompt attention?	
Is the menu posted and does it reflect what is actually being served? Does it accommodate residents with specific dietary needs?	
ACTIVITIES	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
Is a list of activities posted with planned activities for the entire week, including evenings and weekends? Will your relative enjoy these activities?	
Are there religious and grievance services, recreational activities, and language, cultural or social clubs that meet your relative's needs?	
What holidays are celebrated and how are they celebrated? Are there other special events?	

DEMENTIA	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
If the home has an Alzheimer's unit, is it a separate area with skilled staff or is it simply a floor of the home where all the dementia patients are roomed?	
Has the staff (including custodial, CNAs and dietary) received special training to work with dementia patients?	
Is your relative's functional level higher or lower than that of most residents served in special programs that you find appealing? Will your relative be able to take advantage of the activities offered?	
How does the staff handle disruptive behavior by residents with dementia?	
ADMISSIONS	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
When will a bed be available for your relative?	
How long are applications kept on file? When do they need to be updated to remain active?	
Does the wording of admitting and assessment forms allow for identification of partners and family of choice members?	
What are the financial policies?	
What services are included in the basic rate and what services cost extra?	
VISITING	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
Does the home openly support the right to privacy to visit with a spouse, partner or relative?	

MEDICAL SERVICES	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
Does the home offer the therapies and medical services necessary for your relative's rehab program? Does the home have the proper equipment?	
Are there physicians on staff? How many and how often are they on the premises?	
Are specialists available? How long does it take for a resident to be seen?	
How will medical emergencies be handled? How is the family notified?	
END OF LIFE	COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
What are the home's policies about end-of-life treatment?	
Does the home offer a hospice or palliative care program?	

ADDITIONAL NOTES: