

# Looking for an Assisted Living Community?

Check out these helpful questions to ask during your search.



Discover a variety of tips and helpful questions to ask when searching for an assisted living community. As you visit and meet with community representatives, find out about their service offerings and levels of care to help you make the choice that's right for you, now and in the future.



## Service plan

- What happens when a change in condition occurs, for example if your loved one is hospitalized for a short-period of time?
- If a loved one's level of care exceeds the care that can be provided in assisted living, what are your options or next steps?
- What additional options for care are available, if and when your loved one may need them?

## Costs and associated fees

- Ask to see an actual occupancy agreement. This agreement should completely spell out for you the amenities, all care and service packages, plus pricing at the assisted living community.
- Does pricing change frequently? When was the last time there was an increase to pricing? Does the community do a small percentage increase annually?

## Life enrichment

- What types of life-enrichment activities are hosted at the assisted living community?
- Is there a bus or transportation option for your loved one? Is this an additional cost?
- If needing a secured memory care community, how are the activities designed to meet the needs of this unique population?
- Ask to see an activity calendar.

## On-site care staff

- What type of care staff are available to accommodate your loved one daily and in case of an emergency? How are the care staff trained?
- Is there a nurse on site? If so, what types of care and support does the nurse provide? When is the nurse on site?
- What other support staff are available, i.e. dining, laundry, housekeeping?
- How does the care team communicate changes in health conditions to the family representative?

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### **The dining experience**

- How many meals are provided to assisted living residents? What is included?  
Are there additional costs associated?
- How are special diets accommodated? For example low-salt, or vegetarian options?
- Are family and friends able to dine on site?
- If you are touring, ask for a sample of the food or dining menus.

### **Apartment home or unit design and amenities**

- Is there a model apartment available? This is a great opportunity to visualize how furnishings important to your loved one may fit within the space.
- Is there scheduled housekeeping in the apartment, and maintenance assistance?  
What are the costs associated with this?
- What appliances are provided in the assisted living apartment?
- Is there a guest room for family and friends to stay if visiting from out of town?
- Have the assisted living representative show you the amenities in which you feel your loved one truly would enjoy.

### **Safety**

- If there is a medical emergency with your loved one, what is the process for treatment?
- Is there a personal medical device or emergency pull cord available or provided to your loved one?  
Many times this is included in your fees and services.
- Does the assisted living community have secure entrances? If so, during what time of day?
- Are additional keys, or related devices provided to the family?

