



The Pennsylvania Department of Health, which regulates nursing homes and other medical facilities in our Commonwealth, offers a number of resources for families as they consider different care options.

Below you will find a list of questions they suggest you ask when making a site visit—one of the most important components of your decision-making. For your convenience, we encourage you to print this out, ask us questions and make your own observations on your visit to Luther Woods. We look forward to welcoming you to our home!

Q: Will the patient have to move to a different part of the facility based on his/her financial resources?

Q: Is there a waiting list?

Q: Does the facility have a license?

Q: Is there a licensed nursing home administrator?

Q: When you enter the nursing home, what is your first impression?

Q: Is it a warm and inviting environment?

Q: Is it odor free?

Q: Is the temperature comfortable?

Q: Is it clean?

Q: Is it quiet?

Q: Do staff and residents appear to interact with ease?

Q: Are there regular staff or does the facility depend on Agency or contracted employees?

Q: Are there special care units designed to meet specific resident needs such as Alzheimer's/Dementia Units, Ventilator Units, etc.?



Q: Is there sufficient staff on evenings and weekends?

Q: Are requests for assistance by residents/families responded to in a timely manner?
For example, how long does it take staff to answer a call bell or light?

Q: Are care planning meetings held at times that are convenient for residents and family members?
Are the meeting times flexible?

Q: Are meals attractive, nutritious, and varied?

Q: Does the facility have a dietary/nutrition specialist who monitors the menus?

Q: Is the facility able to provide specialized or therapeutic diets when necessary?

Q: Do residents routinely have input into the menu selections?

Q: Is cold food cold and hot food hot?

Q: Are dining rooms attractive and conducive to eating?

Q: Is assistance offered to residents as needed?

Q: Are fluids readily available to residents in the dining areas, common areas and in their rooms?

Q: Are residents' weights monitored regularly?

Q: Are snacks available at all times even when the kitchen is not open?

Q: Does the facility appear to be safe and hazard free?

Q: Are carts routinely stored in hallways/corridors where residents must walk?

Q: Is carpet or tile in good repair to prevent tripping hazards?

Q: Are walking areas well lit without shine or glare?



Q: Are there wander-protection devices in areas where confused residents reside or visit?

Q: Are exits clearly marked and visible to residents and visitors?

Q: Are spills cleaned up quickly and thoroughly?

Q: Are handrails stable, clean and hazard free?

Q: Are handrails available everywhere that residents go without interruption?

Q: Do you notice any residents in physical restraints (devices that prevent the resident from moving freely) that seem inappropriate?

Q: Are there smoke detectors and fire escape plans?

Q: Are there regular fire drills?



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