



Evaluating a Senior Care Community

Seek Referrals:



- From doctors
- From healthcare professionals
- From friends and colleagues



Make Sure to:

- Use the Web for all available information and reviews
- Evaluate homes that are conveniently located for regular visits
- Visit several homes, and not just on 'visiting days'
- Understand exactly how the home will be paid

Look for:



- Safety, cleanliness, ventilation, attractiveness, and good repair
- Well-maintained outdoor areas
- An on-site facility for residents with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia



Find Out:

- How many residents each aide or LVN is assigned to care for
- About kosher or vegetarian options
- How all medical, physical and rehabilitative therapies are handled
- Which hospital residents are sent to, if necessary
- About governance of residents (resident councils, etc.)
- If visiting hours are flexible

Observe:



- Current residents and caregivers
- Dining areas at meal times



Read and Evaluate:

- Each home's latest inspection reports (e.g., Fire Marshal survey, Health Department agency reports)
- A schedule of resident activities
- Menus; ask about a resident menu-planning committee

