

Choosing a Care Home

When you or a relative (“the patient”) can no longer cope with living at home then it may be necessary to consider which care home would be appropriate. However this can be a very emotional time and many people may not be aware of the different options available. This fact sheet aims to give you some general advice to consider when choosing a care home.

What type of care home?

Residential Care Homes

These are for people who can no longer manage at home and need help with “personal care” i.e. washing, bathing, dressing etc. Many of these homes can cope with residents who fall ill but they often cannot give long term nursing care.

Nursing Homes

These are for people who need skilled nursing care but cannot be treated at home by a GP or sufficient arrangements cannot be made by Social Services.

Some homes can offer both types of care but it is important to find out what level of care you are actually paying for.

Where do I start?

Ensure that there is an assessment completed as to whether the Patient needs Nursing Care and, if so, at what level. This is to establish whether the costs of care can be paid for in full, or in part, by the NHS. If the care fees are not going to be paid for in full then there should then be a financial assessment of the Patient to establish whether the Local Authority should be contributing to the cost of the Patient’s care.

Please contact us for more information on these assessments.

A list of residential care homes can be provided by Social Services. For nursing homes, contact the District Health Authority Registration Officer. You can then contact the homes yourself. There are also websites with details about care homes in your area such as www.bettercaring.com. This way you can see which care homes in your area can offer a level of service to meet the Patient’s needs.

If you have an enquiry about Care Home Funding, contact us today to find out how we can help.

We are happy to see clients at any of our offices.

0800 220 382
info@tgbaynes.com
tgbaynes.com

Broadway House
208 Broadway
Bexleyheath
Kent
DA6 7BG

Baynes House
5 Market Street
Dartford
Kent
DA1 1DB

Downe House
303 High Street
Orpington
Kent
BR6 0NJ

Choosing a Care Home Checklist?

The Fees

- What is the cost per week?
- What does that include?
- Are there any “extras” which will need to be paid?

Location

- Is it convenient for relatives to visit?
- Are there any shops nearby?

Visit

- Can you look around before hand and speak with staff, residents and even their relatives?
- Does everyone at the home come across as friendly and approachable?
- Is there an acceptance policy?
- Many care homes are unable to cope with patients with various illnesses

Building

- Is the Building well maintained?
- Is everywhere clean?
- Is it secure?
- Is there sufficient wheelchair access?

Rooms

- Is it secure?
- What level of privacy is there?
- Is everywhere clean?
- Can you bring in personal belongings to decorate the room to make it look homely?

Social/Activities

- Are outside trips organised?
- Are games and/or activities arranged in the evening?

Services

- Is there a resident GP? Can you keep your own GP?
- Is legal advice available to residents and relatives?

Contract

The care home should provide you with a written contract

We hope you find this Information Guide helpful but it is only intended to give a brief outline of the topic and should not be relied on as a basis for action. We would be happy to give you more detailed advice based on your individual circumstances.

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