

## **Assisted Living: Special Care Units**

***If your loved one is considering a move to assisted living, you need to find out about any special care services offered by the facility.***

*Note: These checklists have been developed by The Consumer Consortium on Assisted Living (CCAL), a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to representing the needs of consumers in assisted living facilities and educating consumers, professionals, and the general public about assisted living issues.*

### **Special Care Units**

This section is directed to family members or other interested persons, because it would be unusual for the person who needs a special care unit to be asking these questions. These questions should be asked in addition to previous questions.

**Is there a separate area specifically for people with dementia?**

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**How do services in the special care unit differ from services in the rest of the facility?**

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**What is the difference in staff training? The staff-to-resident ratio?**

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**Do residents go out of doors regularly? How often? Where do they go?**

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**How do you ensure that the resident is getting proper nutrition? Are finger foods available? Do you offer decaffeinated drinks throughout the day?**

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**Look at a calendar of activities. Do they appear appropriate for the resident?**

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**Do the residents on the unit seem as disabled as the prospective resident?**

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**What is the facility's policy on restraints, both chemical and physical?**

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**Is there space to walk around on the unit?**

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**What are the room arrangements?**

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**If there will be a roommate, does he/she have any habits or mannerisms that would be difficult for the prospective resident to handle, e.g. staying up late at night, yelling, going through personal possessions of others?**

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**When rooms are shared, what does the facility do if problems such as those in the previous question arise?**

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**What is the cost difference between special care and regular units?**

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