

A Checklist for Comparing Retirement Communities

This checklist will help you ask the right questions, compare your notes and find just the right retirement community to meet your needs. Take a copy with you each time you visit or tour a campus and have a pen ready to record your thoughts.



Presbyterian Manor
Perkins-Prothro Health Care
House of Hope



Location and Convenience

Is the campus convenient to:

- Family _____
- Friends _____
- Church _____
- Doctors _____
- Bank _____
- Shopping _____
- Restaurants _____
- Parks _____
- Post Office _____



Quality of care indicators

The quality of the people you live with and who care for you is often more important than the physical surroundings. Ask about the organization's:

- History and founding _____
- Reason for existing - is it a not-for-profit or a for-profit facility? _____
- Religious affiliation _____
- Staff-to-resident ratio _____
- Average length of service of staff _____
- Overall atmosphere _____
- On-going training of staff _____
- Policy on privacy and respect for residents and their belongings _____
- Results on its last two state inspections _____
- Demeanor of staff in general _____
- Demeanor of residents in general _____

The Facility

- Fire retardant brick and concrete construction _____
- Windows in rooms/apts. that open easily _____
- Wheelchair accessible porches/outdoor areas/gardens _____
- Well-lit entrance that's accessible in all types of weather _____
- Automatic outside doors _____
- Fire alarms and smoke detectors throughout the building _____
- Parking for residents _____
- Security guard _____
- Individual door locks _____
- Elevators available _____

Interior Features

The facility should be bright, clean and sweet smelling. Here are some things to consider:

Lobby:

- How recently has the building been remodeled? _____
- A homey feel _____
- Attractive decor _____
- Comfortable furniture _____
- Good lighting _____
- Artwork _____
- TV/video equipment _____
- Fireplace _____

Dining Room:

- A homey feel _____
- Attractive decor _____
- Comfortable furniture _____
- Good lighting _____
- Artwork _____

Hallways:

- Plenty of space for people and wheelchairs to pass _____
- Good lighting _____
- Handrails _____
- Signage to make it easy to find your way around _____
- Practical flooring for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. _____

Easy Access to:

- Elevators
- Dining areas
- Laundry
- Library
- Outside Areas

Services and Amenities

Are these services available?:

- Housekeeping: How often for what fee? _____
- Personal laundry: How often for what fee? _____
- Linen service: How often for what fee? _____
- Transportation: How does it work? _____
- Transportation to local grocery stores, mall, drugstore, etc - for what fee? _____
- Emergency nurse call: How does it work and for what fee? _____

Food Service - Ask for sample menus and eat a meal there, if possible.

- Meals well-balanced and appetizing _____
- Choices for entrées and amounts of food _____
- Meals served hot _____
- Special diets and dietary requests accommodated _____
- Menus supervised by registered dietitian _____
- Hours of operation? _____
- Casual dining available? _____
- Guests and family members welcome? _____
- What does the meal plan include? _____

How are meals served?

- Buffet style _____
- Served by wait staff _____
- Open seating or assigned places _____
- Delivery services available? for what fee? _____
- Second helpings or smaller portions available? _____

Social Activities

- Exercise or wellness program _____
- Billiards _____
- Church services _____
- Bible study groups _____
- In-house library _____
- Ceramics or other hobby groups _____
- Arts and crafts rooms _____
- Movies _____
- On-site speakers on current events _____
- Music programs _____
- Monthly parties/special events _____
- Birthday parties for residents _____
- On-site educational classes _____
- Resident council governing body _____
- Intergenerational opportunities _____
- Out-of-town travel opportunities _____

The quality of a program can often be judged by the number of people assigned to it.

How many volunteers are involved with the organization? _____

How many staff members are there in the activity department and what are their roles?

On-site Conveniences

- On-site physician's clinic for residents _____
- Beauty salon _____
- Laundry rooms _____
- Gift shop/store _____
- City bus service _____
- Convenient parking for residents and visitors _____
- Business center - computers, copier, fax machine _____
- Exercise room _____

Other Details and Factors

What details are important to you?



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We hope this workbook has provided you with some helpful suggestions as you visit and tour retirement campuses. Best wishes on your new adventures ahead!

Also check out our other free resources:

“A Senior’s Moving Workbook” and
“The Cost Comparison Worksheet.”

Call (940) 696-8633 or email info@presmanor.org to obtain your free copy.

Presbyterian Manor
4600 Taft Blvd.
Wichita Falls, TX 76308
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