



Choosing Care

Key considerations and resources
to **help determine the best care**
for you or your loved one.



Independence with Dignity

A Guide to Choosing Care

Young or old, temporary or long-term, many of us will require care and support after an injury or illness at some point throughout our lives. This guide is intended to help you understand your options and evaluate your choices. Use the following key considerations and resources (on the back cover) to help you determine what is best for you or your loved one.

Key Considerations

SETTING

A primary consideration is whether you or your loved one would prefer the community life of being in a facility or would prefer the familiarity and comfort of being at home.

CARE NEEDS

After a hospitalization, some people need sub-acute care for a short time if frequent testing or intensive medical needs persist. After that, post-acute or skilled services, as well as custodial care, can generally be provided equally well in a facility or at home. Some important considerations include: Can my loved one get into the bathroom or will we need a commode? Is the bedroom upstairs? Can we get a hospital bed in the home if needed? Bathing, meals, medication management, therapy exercises can all be successfully and enjoyably provided at home. Generally, individuals who require more than one person to help them transfer in and out of a chair do need to be in a facility. Some individuals elect to use a lift in the home to facilitate their independence.

LOCATION

For those who elect a facility, consider the location. Can family all easily access the community, especially if an elderly spouse is no longer driving or prefers not to drive at night.

CULTURE

Another important consideration for those electing facility care is culture. Every community has its own culture. Some are religious, others are not. Some are small and simple, others are very large and offer a resort-type experience. If you are spending an extended time in a community, you will want to be comfortable with that facility's culture.

STAFFING

Regardless of whether you select the comfort of home or the convenience of a facility, a critical consideration is staffing! How friendly are the workers (not just the salespeople)? How is the turn-over or retention of staff? If an organization cares for its employees well, there's good likelihood that the employees will care for you well.

REVIEWS

Most people buying a new pair of sneakers or choosing a hotel, would first check the ratings and reviews on their favorite search engine. How much more important to research the company that will be responsible for your care? Ask friends, read Google, Bing, or other online reviews, ask your Doctor or other medical professionals before making your final decision.



CARE PROVIDER EVALUATION FORM

Use this chart to compare information as you research your care provider options.

QUESTION	HEMOCARE/FACILITY #1	HEMOCARE/FACILITY #2	HEMOCARE/FACILITY #3
Check Google and Facebook Reviews			
How long has current leadership been there?			
Are your employees covered by insurance?			
How do you train your caregivers?			
Do you write a personalized plan of care for each client?			
How do you ensure coverage for my loved one if someone gets sick?			
Can I speak to someone responsible outside normal business hours?			
What is the process to move out or discontinue services? How long am I locked into this?			
How will I be kept informed of my loved one's care?			

Resources to Consider

As you're helping your loved one build a plan for their future care and well-being, the following professionals can be a helpful part of your advocacy team. If you would like specific referrals or suggestions, call 616-575-8519 and someone will be able to assist you

- Elder law attorney
 - Financial advisor
 - Local Area on Aging
 - Placement agency
 - Senior moving specialists
 - Senior home repair contractor
 - Accountable Care Organization
 - Visiting Physician
 - Home Care Provider
 - Hospice/Palliative Care Provider
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by serving all people
with personalized care.**