

Comparison Checklist – Memory Care (additional items)

Environment

- **As you arrive at the community and enter the lobby what does it feel like? Is it warm and inviting?**
- **As you tour the community, are the sights and sounds pleasing, calm and relaxing?**
- **Were you warmly welcomed by a staff member and given the attention you were looking for?**
- **Do you receive cheerful acknowledgement from all staff?**
- **Do active residents seem engaged and do residents look good, appear happy and comfortable?**
- **Are amenities, activities, services and supervision appropriate for your loved one?**
- **Are staff members appropriately dressed, personable and outgoing?**
- **Do the staff members talk with each other and the residents in a respectful, kind manner?**
- **Is the layout of the community easy to navigate?**
- **Are colors used to help residents recognize their hallway or living area?**
- **Does the community have secured or alarmed doors to ensure resident safety?**
- **Do the residents have access to outdoor areas? Are the areas secure and monitored?**

Physical Features

- **Does the community have the right type of licensure – Alzheimer, Dementia or Memory Care endorsement?**
- **Is the floor plan easy for them to follow?**
- **Are doorways, hallways, and rooms accommodating to wheelchairs and walkers?**
- **Does the community have good natural and/or artificial lighting?**
- **Is the community clean, free of odors and appropriately heated/cooled?**
- **Does the community have sprinklers, smoke detectors and clearly marked exits?**
- **Does the community have a means of security if a resident wanders?**
- **Are residents able to wander freely within the community?**
- **Can residents or family members decorate their own apartments?**
- **Do the residents have adequate privacy to promote dignity?**

Needs Assessments, Residency Agreements, Assisted Living Costs & Finances

- **Does this periodic resident's assessment process include the resident's family and/or Responsible Party, and community staff, along with the resident's physician?**
- **Is a residency agreement available that discloses personal care and supportive services, all fees, as well as move-in and move-out provisions? What is the policy for refunds and transfers?**

- **Is there a written plan of care for each resident? How frequently is it reviewed and updated?**
- **Does the community have a process for assessing a resident's need for services and are those needs addressed periodically?**
- **Are additional services available if the resident's needs change?**

Medication and Health Care

- **Do the caregivers have specialized training in effectively communicating with and care for residents who have a memory impairment?**
- **Does the community have specific policies regarding storage of medications, assistance with medications, training and supervision of staff and record keeping?**
- **Is medication administration efficiently performed by nurses or trained Med Techs? Are trained staff available 24 hours for as needed/PRN orders?**
- **Does the community have a clearly stated procedure for responding to a resident's medical emergency?**
- **Does the community staff know how to manage different behaviors brought on by the memory impairment disease? Does the staff understand the importance of intervention techniques or other approaches to reduce the need of behavioral medications?**
- **Do the current residents appear to have proper hygiene, combed hair, clean shaven, matching cloths and free of incontinence orders?**

Additional Considerations

- **Are the residents actively engaged in activities that are appropriate and/or interesting to those with Alzheimer's or dementia? Are there activities of daily living tasks residents can assist with – folding napkins, cloths, cleaning or gardening?**
- **Does the community have a posted activity schedule or calendar?**
- **Can the community provide a list of available personal care services?**
- **Does the community arrange transportation for all scheduled medical appointments?**
- **Is staff available to provide 24-hour assistance with activities of daily living (ADL's) if needed? ADL's include dressing, eating, mobility, hygiene, grooming, bathing and toileting.**
- **Does the community offer barber/beautician services onsite?**
- **Do you have a good rapport with the management and care team, feel comfortable in their abilities and trust them to provide for your loved one's needs?**