

KEY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER WHEN CHOOSING AN ALZHEIMER'S CARE COMMUNITY



The decision to place your loved one in an Alzheimer's care community can be emotional and heartbreaking. Once that decision is made, there are many factors to consider for a family member or friend suffering from Alzheimer's. Here are questions to answer that may help you determine if an Avamere community, or any senior living community, is right for your loved one.

WHAT TYPE OF CARE DOES YOUR LOVED ONE NEED?

There are varying levels of severity with Alzheimer's. Likewise, the type of care your loved one needs will vary widely. Consult with your doctor to get a clinical assessment of your loved one's diagnosis and the care they will likely need.

DOES THE COMMUNITY PROVIDE LONG-TERM CARE?

Alzheimer's disease has many stages and progressions. It is likely that your loved one's symptoms and needs will change over time. It's important to assess if a community can serve those varying care levels over time.

WHAT IS THE COST?

As you can imagine, the cost for Alzheimer's care can be expensive. Insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid coverage can vary widely. Speak with the community's financial counselor and your county's social services department to see what coverage is available for your loved one.

IS THE COMMUNITY SAFE, WELL-STAFFED, AND CLEAN?

This seems like it should go without saying that the community for your loved one should be safe, well-staffed, and clean. But you should make sure the community has safety features such as handrails in hallways, non-skid floors, and grab bars and call lights in the bathrooms.

The community should also have measures in place to prevent dementia patients from wandering or feature confined, controlled "roaming areas." At Avamere, our number one goal is to ensure the comfort and security of memory care residents.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS?

Alzheimer's patients have improved orientation and maintain a higher level of cognition longer when provided with a stable routine, structured activities, and opportunities to socialize. Check with the community to see the programs they offer, as well as a sample of their monthly activities calendar.

ARE THE STAFF PROPERLY TRAINED?

Look for a community that offers ongoing, specialized training for any staff working with dementia patients. Advanced dementia patients can frequently engage in challenging behaviors. These patients often need to be redirected from dangerous or inappropriate behavior and may even become noncompliant and combative. Not every nurse or aide has the skill set or patience to manage these situations. Be sure to ask how the community handles difficult behaviors.

WHAT ARE OTHER PEOPLE SAYING?

The internet is a powerful resource to read about the experience others have had at the community you are considering for your loved one. This takes time, though. Many sites and search engines will display isolated reviews that are either glowing recommendations or a severe, often one-time occurrence. Take the time to read from a variety of resources to make an informed opinion about the community.

Let us help care for your loved one. Visit a nearby Avamere community to see how we care for our Alzheimer's residents the Avamere way.

ABOUT AVAMERE

Avamere is dedicated to the health and well-being of seniors. When approaching the unique care needs and living situations of the individuals we serve, we strive to provide what they need to remain comfortably in the residence of their choice. Avamere's diverse companies operate in 248 locations across 19 states. Avamere is proud to be considered one of Oregon's most admired companies as they continue to serve their valued patients and residents. For more information, please visit avamere.com.



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