

## **25 Questions to Ask when Touring an Assisted Living Community**

### **1. Can you describe the staff-to-resident ratio at your facility?**

*Asking about the staff-to-resident ratio is essential because it directly affects the level of care and attention each resident can receive. A lower ratio means more personalized care and quicker responses to the needs of residents, which is crucial for maintaining their health and well-being.*

### **2. What comprehensive training programs do your care staff undergo?**

*Understanding what training the staff undergoes helps ensure that they are well-prepared to handle the specific needs of the residents, from medical care to emotional support. This question also reveals the facility's commitment to professional development and adherence to industry standards.*

### **3. Is your staff specially trained to manage residents with memory impairments like Alzheimer's?**

*Specialized training for managing residents with memory impairments like Alzheimer's is crucial for ensuring that the care provided is appropriate and sensitive to their unique needs. It signifies a staff's capability to enhance the quality of life for these residents through specific skills and approaches.*

### **4. Do you provide round-the-clock staff presence on-site?**

*Confirming 24/7 staff availability is critical for resident safety and ensures that assistance is available at all times, especially for emergencies or unexpected situations during non-daylight hours.*

### **5. Are your staff members certified to administer medications to residents?**

*This question is important because proper medication management is often a cornerstone of effective elder care, particularly for residents with chronic conditions. Certified staff ensure that medications are administered safely and accurately.*

### **6. Are there registered nurses available, and can they administer treatments like diabetic injections?**

*Registered nurses are vital for administering more complex medical procedures such as diabetic injections. Their presence indicates a higher level of onsite healthcare which can be critical for residents requiring regular medical attention.*

### **7. Is there an in-house physician available for regular check-ups or medical consultations?**

*An in-house physician means that routine medical check-ups and consultations are easily accessible, enhancing the proactive management of residents' health and reducing the need for external hospital visits.*

**8. What security measures and safety protocols do you implement to protect your residents?**

*Effective security measures and safety protocols are fundamental for the protection of residents, particularly in protecting those with cognitive impairments from wandering and ensuring all residents are safe from external and internal risks.*

**9. What is your facility's level of experience in managing conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Diabetes?**

*Asking about the facility's experience with conditions like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Diabetes helps gauge their expertise and success in managing these diseases, impacting the decision-making process for potential residents with such conditions.*

**10. Do you perform a comprehensive assessment of potential residents prior to admission?**

*A thorough assessment prior to admission ensures that the facility can meet the specific needs of the new resident and is prepared to provide the necessary care, which is crucial for personalized care planning.*

**11. Could you explain the pricing structure, including any variations in cost between different apartments?**

*Understanding the pricing structure, including any variations in costs, is crucial for financial planning and assessing affordability in the long term, ensuring there are no hidden costs.*

**12. Is there an initial admissions or deposit or admission fee required? If so, what does it cover?**

*Knowing what an admission fee covers helps families assess initial costs and what services or amenities are included, providing transparency in financial dealings.*

**13. How frequently are the living spaces cleaned and linens changed?**

*Frequent cleaning and linen changes are indicators of good hygiene practices, essential for maintaining a healthy living environment, particularly for immunocompromised or sensitive residents.*

**14. Is it possible to connect with other families within the community to share experiences and insights?**

*The ability to meet and speak with other families provides insights into the community aspect of the facility and offers first-hand accounts of the care and community life from those with similar experiences.*

**15. Do you provide transportation services for external doctor's appointments?**

*Transportation services are crucial for accessing off-site medical care, especially for residents who do not have family nearby or are unable to transport themselves.*

**16. Could you provide details on the activities available to residents as per your activity calendar?**

*Activities are vital for mental and physical health. Detailed information about available activities helps families understand how their loved ones will be engaged and whether their social and recreational needs can be met.*

**17. What additional services do you offer should a resident's care needs evolve?**

*Knowing what additional services are available is important for planning ahead as a resident's care needs increase, ensuring seamless transitions to higher levels of care without needing to relocate.*

**18. What is your billing policy? How transparent and predictable are the charges?**

*Transparency in billing policies helps families budget effectively and understand what they are paying for, reducing the risk of unexpected expenses.*

**19. What types of recreational and social activities do you offer to engage residents?**

*A wide range of activities indicates a vibrant community life and helps in maintaining the cognitive and physical health of residents, contributing to a higher quality of life.*

**20. Does your facility provide end-of-life care, including hospice services?**

*Discussing whether a facility provides hospice or end-of-life care is crucial for planning long-term care in a single facility, ensuring continuity of care and comfort in the final stages of a resident's life.*

**21. What types of meals are offered, and how do you accommodate special dietary needs?**

*Nutritious meals that cater to specific dietary needs are crucial for residents' health, especially those with dietary restrictions due to medical conditions.*

**22. In case of emergency, which hospital do you coordinate with?**

*Knowing which hospital's a facility coordinates with in emergencies provides peace of mind regarding the rapid medical response in critical situations.*

**23. What are the visiting hours, and are there any specific visitation guidelines or restrictions?**

Clear visitation policies ensure that families can plan

**24. How do you handle situations when a resident's care needs intensify and require additional services?**

*It's essential to ask how a facility adjusts when a resident's care needs increase because it indicates whether the facility can provide continuous, comprehensive care or if a move will be necessary. This ensures your loved one can remain in a familiar environment even as their needs change, providing stability and peace of mind.*

**25. How often do you review and potentially adjust the rent, and how is this communicated to residents and families?**

*Understanding the frequency and communication of rent adjustments is crucial for financial planning. This question helps ensure there are no surprises, allowing families to budget effectively and trust in the facility's transparency and fairness.*

These questions are crafted to provide a deeper understanding of the facility's services and practices, ensuring families have all the information they need to make informed decisions about their loved one's care.

At Placement Helpers, we are more than advisors; we are dedicated partners on your family's journey through elder care. If you are exploring assisted living options and seeking compassionate, expert guidance, please call us at **866-828-9855**. Together, we can ensure this important transition is as seamless and supportive as possible.