



# FINDING A HOME CARE PROVIDER CHECKLIST

Hiring an in-home care provider can help seniors remain living at home as they age and delay the need for costly institutional care. Whether you're looking for yourself or you're a family member searching for a suitable home care provider for your loved one, we've developed this checklist to guide you through the process.

# DETERMINE YOUR CARE NEEDS

Not all home care providers offer the same services and not all families have the same senior care needs, so the first step to choosing a home care provider is identifying your family's particular needs.

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## Part 1: Identify Your Specific Needs

Put a checkmark next to the items below to indicate the kind of care you or your loved one requires. Add any additional care items needed on the blank lines below.

- I need help with household tasks such as cleaning, meal prep and laundry.
- I need help with household management tasks such as organizing and paying bills and facilitating home maintenance.
- I need help with personal care tasks such as getting dressed, bathing, toileting and brushing my hair.
- I need companionship.
- I need help managing my medication.
- I need light medical care, such as insulin shots and wound management.
- I need help getting to and from medical appointments and running errands in town.

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## Part 2 - Develop the Initial Care Plan

Now that you have an idea of the kind of services you need from an in-home care provider, it's time to think about how much weekly help you need and how you'll pay for it.

Consider the five following questions.

1. How many hours each week do I need assistance?

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2. How many days each week do I need assistance?

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3. How much can I afford to pay for in-home care?

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4. Is this a temporary situation while I recover from an illness or injury, or will I need long-term assistance?

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5. Will my Medicare/Medicaid or private insurance pay for any part of in-home care?

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# INTERVIEW POTENTIAL HOME CARE PROVIDERS

Once you've determined the level of assistance you or your loved one will need and how much you can afford to pay for a provider, interview potential candidates.

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Here are some suggested interview questions, as well as space to write your own.

- 🏠 Do you background check your in-home providers before hiring them? What is your screening process?
- 🏠 What is your PPE/Vaccine policy for in-home providers?
- 🏠 How many providers do you have on staff? Do you have contingency plans in place in the event that my scheduled provider cannot fulfill his/her role?
- 🏠 How many of your caregivers are licensed providers (CNA, LPN, RN, etc)?
- 🏠 What do you charge for in-home care services?
- 🏠 What insurance do you accept?

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After you've interviewed prospective care providers, review your specific care needs and resources. Can you eliminate any of the candidates based on those answers? Make sure that you confirm your interviewees' answers, check their references and follow your instincts if you don't feel comfortable with one of the candidates. You can always conduct another round of interviews.