

18 Questions to Ask Any Nursing Home

How to find a place that wants to be a real home

What makes a nursing home a good place for you or your parents? While “good” can mean a lot of things, it should include qualities like dignity and self-determination for the people who live there. The Pioneer Network offers tips on how to check for those qualities.

Formed 20 years ago, the nonprofit [Pioneer Network](#) is made up of professionals who work in long-term care, people who live in long-term care and families who advocate for them. The network, active nationally and through coalitions in 36 states, belongs to a broad-based movement in long-term care that is sometimes called simply “culture change.” That is a movement away from generic, system-based care and toward more individual, person-directed care. With culture change, residents have a large voice in the care they get and have as many of the freedoms they had in their earlier homes as possible.

You can find out if a nursing home is guided by the principles of culture change by asking specific questions when you visit to take a tour. A few examples:

- Can residents wake up when they want to in the morning?
- How do you get to know the people who live here?
- How do you build a sense of community and give those who live here a voice in how things are done?
- What is the turnover rate for the direct care workers on your staff?

There are 18 questions in all to ask at nursing homes, and a similar set of 16 to ask when looking at assisted living facilities. You can see [the questions and](#)

[the answers to listen for](#) on the Pioneer Network website, where they are also available as downloads.

Next Avenue Editors Also Recommend:

- [**He Broke the Law to Build a Better Nursing Home**](#)
- [**What If Residents Decided How Their Nursing Home Would Run?**](#)
- [**6 Signs of Nursing Home Neglect**](#)

[© Twin Cities Public Television - 2017. All rights reserved.](#)