Below is a suggested checklist to use when evaluating the nursing homes you visit. Use these checklists items to record your impressions of each facility when considering if it is a proper fit for the care needs of your loved one.

- **Cleanliness**
  - Does the facility's cleanliness meet your expectations?

- **Location**
  - Is the patient happy with the location?
  - Is the nursing home conveniently located for your family to visit frequently?
  - Is the nursing home's location convenient for the patient's physician?
  - Is the nursing home near a hospital?

- **Licensure and Medicare/Medicaid Certification**
  - When was the facility's last state survey?
  - Is the facility's last survey available to review?
  - Is the nursing home certified to provide Medicare/Medicaid coverage?
  - Does the administrator have a current license issued by the state?
  - Does the facility have a quality assurance program?

- **Staff Attitudes**
  - Does the staff visibly show respect and interest for the patients?
  - Is the staff quick to respond to a patient's call for assistance?
  - Is the staff courteous?
  - Is the administrator available for the patients to ask questions, or discuss problems and concerns?
  - Is the staff respectful and amiable to each other?

- **Staff / Patient ratio**
  - How many front-line care providers are on staff?
  - How many registered nurses, licensed nurse practitioners, nurse's aides, etc.

- **Costs**
  - What is the daily charge for care?
  - Does the basic daily charge cover all necessary services?
  - If the patient leaves the nursing home, are the advance payments returned?

- **Medical Services**
  - Are personal physicians allowed to treat patients?
  - Is a physician available in an emergency?
- In an emergency, will the patient's personal physician be notified?
- Is regular medical attention guaranteed?
- Is confidentiality of medical records guaranteed?
- What medical services are available at the facility?

☐ Care planning
- How often does a care plan occur?
- Are patients and their families involved in care plans?

☐ Hospitalization
- Is emergency transportation available?
- Does the nursing home have an arrangement with a local hospital?
- Will the patient's bed be held if he or she must be hospitalized?

☐ Pharmacy
- Is a pharmacist available for patients and staff?
- Does a pharmacist review the drug treatment plans?
- Are routine and emergency drugs available?

☐ Therapy Program
- Are speech therapy and occupational therapy services available to patients?
- Is a qualified physical therapist available to supervise therapy programs at the nursing home?

☐ Activities
- What group and individual activities are available to patients?
- Is participation encouraged?
- Does the facility have volunteers working with the patients?
- What are your volunteer policies?
- Are offsite trips planned for the patients?
- Are the patients involved in the community in any way?

☐ Social Services
- Does the nursing home have a social worker available to assist individuals and families?

☐ Fire Safety
- Are exits unobstructed and clearly marked?
- Is the facility compliant with state and federal codes?
- Does the facility conduct fire drills?
- Are emergency evacuation plans posted with floor plans throughout the facility?

☐ Grounds
- Are walkways clear and free of hazardous objects?
- Is parking adequate for visitors?
- Are the grounds accessible to handicapped individuals?
- Does the facility have outdoor furniture for the patients and their visitors?

☐ Food / Dining
- Does a dietician plan menus for residents requiring special diets?
- Are the patient's preferences considered?
- Does the menu vary?
- How much time are the patients given to eat?
- Is the dining room easy to navigate for those in wheelchairs?
- Is food delivered to patients unable to eat in the dining room?
- Is assistance with eating given to those patients who need it?
- Does the nursing home provide snacks?

☐ Grooming
- Are barbers and beauticians available?
- Does the nursing home provide a laundry service?
- Does the nursing home provide assistance with bathing and grooming?

☐ Patient rights
- Does the facility have a detailed description of the patient's rights posted in the facility?
- Are the patient's rights available for your review?
- Are the staff members trained to protect dignity and privacy, and abide by the patient's rights?

☐ Religious observance
- Does the facility make arrangements for patients to worship as they please?

☐ Family involvement
- Does the nursing home have a family council?
- What volunteer opportunities are available?

☐ Other notes: