

Assisted Living Script
Draft 2
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Speaker:

Hello, thank you so much for contacting A Place for Mom. We want to be your resource when researching the maze of senior housing options. We have Eldercare Advisors throughout the country that are ready and willing to help you.

History:

Assisted Living Communities became popular in the early 1980's. Prior to this most seniors only option for personal care was a nursing homes or living with family. Assisted living communities were created to meet the needs of seniors and their families looking for a social setting to fulfill their care needs instead of the medical environment at most skilled nursing facilities. Services are designed to preserve as much independence as possible, providing the resident with choices and dignity but also offering the support of staff if needed.

Since the 1980's assisted living communities have become a viable option for seniors and the number of locations has grown to over 38,000 communities nationwide.

Options:

The size of a community typically ranges anywhere from 20 to 150 residents and may combine several types of services or living environments such as Independent Living, Alzheimer's Care or Nursing Home Care or a combination of these. Communities may also be a low rise, high rise or single story. Assisted Living communities can be found in a variety of locations from urban to suburban settings.

Communities may offer a range of apartment sizes from shared apartments to studio up to two bedrooms. The apartment or suite may come equipped with a kitchenette. Included in the kitchenette is usually a small refrigerator, sink area and possibly a microwave oven. Most communities do not offer stove tops or ranges since meals are included in a central dining room. Private bathrooms are common, however bathing facilities maybe private or shared depending on the community.

Who operates these communities?

Communities may be owned or managed by publicly traded corporations, small companies, churches, families or individuals. Some entities will have hundreds of communities while others may just manage one community.

What types of care can be provided

Services will vary in Assisted Living communities. All Assisted Living communities are licensed by the state they operate in and the license may influence the range of services provided.

Each community may be unique to the degree in which services are provided. Some communities may provide more clinical services while others will choose to focus on social programs such as arts and crafts, music, education classes and more.

The greatest differences between communities' services are usually found in their incontinence and medication programs, including diabetic injections and in the physical lifting or moving of residents who need assistance transferring from a bed to a wheelchair.

What are items are typically included in the monthly rent? – GRAPHIC?

Most communities will provide certain services or amenities in the monthly rent, these typically include;

- Emergency Call System
- Safety Checks
- 24-hour staff
- 3 meals daily in a common dining room
- Weekly Housekeeping
- Scheduled Transportation by bus or van that accommodates wheelchairs and walkers
- Activity Program throughout the day
- Most utilities
- Care Charges may or may not be included - if care is extra it will be defined on an individual basis – and can change depending on the residents needs

Respite or short term stays may also be available. These can serve as a trial stay or while recuperating after a hospitalization or injury.

Benefits for the senior

Most of the time senior's health and mood improve in an assisted living and they wonder why they didn't move sooner. They are now relieved of the stress of keeping up a home, preparing meals, taking the right medication at the right time, getting assistance with transportation and having employees and peers who are only steps away to socialize with daily. .

All of this often equals peace of mind of knowing that help is just seconds away can be a huge relief for both the senior and their family.

Here at A Place for Mom we hope this information has been helpful in guiding you through a senior housing option you might not have been familiar with. Please contact your Eldercare Advisor or A Place for Mom at _____ if you have any additional questions.

Best wishes to you and family.