

Researching Nursing Care Facilities

A program of the Baldwinsville Public Library
Senior Health Information Series

Robert F. Loftus, MSLIS

The first step in researching assisted living and nursing care facilities is to decide what level of care you or your relative will require. There are no hard and fast rules that state exactly what services a facility must offer to be able to call itself an assisted living facility, so your first step should be to sit down and think about what services you or your relative will require. Once you have listed the care services you will require, you'll be prepared to look for key information on facility websites, and ask the right questions of their intake representatives.

“Assisted living residences are aimed at helping residents remain as self-sufficient as possible with the assurance of assistance when needed. A combination of housing, meals, personal care and support, social activities, 24-hour supervision and, in some residences, health-related services is usually provided.”¹ Nursing care facilities are designed for patients who require more intensive care than what an Assisted Living facility will require. In general, the difference between Assisted Living and Nursing Care is that in Assisted Living the resident is in his or her own apartment which is equipped with numerous call buttons for contacting nursing staff as needed. In a nursing home the patient is in his or her own room, and care staff are constantly walking the halls and looking in through the doorway to keep an eye on things. Nursing home call buttons are located next to the patient's bed, in the bathroom, and sometimes on the patient's wheelchair. Hospice care goes a step beyond nursing care, and is generally for patients who have a terminal illness, whose doctors have advised them that additional treatment is unlikely to be productive. Patients in hospice facilities are frequently bed-ridden, and receive near constant care, sometimes from a nurse that's assigned solely to them, or a nurse who only has one other patient.

Many Assisted Living and Nursing Care facilities are featured on senior living websites that offer pictures of the interior of the facility, and information on the programs and services offered. Try Googling for "<community name> <type of care>" to look for information. An example of looking for information that way would be search strings such as "Baldwinsville Assisted Living" or "Syracuse

¹ Assisted living: Weighing the options. Downloaded May 25th, 2016 from: http://www.aarp.org/relationships/caregiving-resource-center/info-09-2010/ho_assisted_living_weighing_the_options.html

nursing care". Here are some examples of links that popped up after searching for "Baldwinsville Assisted Living" in Google:

- <https://www.caring.com/local/assisted-living-facilities-in-baldwinsville-new-york/park-terrace-at-radisson>
- http://www.seniorhousingnet.com/seniorliving-search/baldwinsville_ny
- <http://www.seniorliving.org/assisted-living/new-york/syracuse/>

**Medicare and AARP offer a websites for comparing
Assisted Living and Nursing Care Facilities**

Medicare.gov: Nursing Home Compare

<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

AARP Nursing Home Checklist

<http://www.aarp.org/home-family/caregiving/info-05-2012/caregiving-resource-center-asking-right-questions.html>

**Additional information is available from the
Onondaga County Office for the Aging**

If you would like assistance researching which facility may be best for your relative, or would like help figuring out how to manage the costs of an Assisted Living or Nursing care facility, you can contact the Onondaga County Office for the Aging Office of Long Term Care Services.

Onondaga County Office for the Aging

<http://www.ongov.net/aging/>

Onondaga County Office for the Aging: Office of Long Term Care Services

<http://www.ongov.net/ltc/>