



Tips for finding, interviewing, choosing and becoming eligible for placement in a nursing home:

1. First we encourage you to speak or continue speaking with your physician in depth about your concerns. Your physician can advocate for nursing home placement, as well as making the recommendation for a placement.
 - A. An assessment may be completed by your physician to rule out other disorders, before labeling her with Alzheimer's.
 - B. There are helpful resources and guidelines within the toolkits on our resources page at www.dsaw.org. Please use as you see fit.
2. The second step in the placement process is determining the nursing home and your payment source.
 - A. You may want to look into **Medicaid**. Check out the website for more information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/medicaid/ssi-related.htm>
 - a. If you are eligible and receive Medicaid then you may want to look for a Medicaid facility.
 - B. You must go through the **Nursing Home Pre-Admission Review process** which is conducted by the **WI Department of Health Services**. All individuals with developmental disabilities who are considering a nursing home must go through this process. The direct line for questions and referrals for the Nursing Home Pre-admission review is **608-266-7072**.
 - a. All nursing homes that are Medicaid-certified nursing facilities require this process to be completed before a person with any developmental disability or mental health diagnosis be admitted.
 - C. You can check out the website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/pasrr/index.htm>
3. While this is taking place, you can look for a facility in the area that is close to you, so that you can visit your loved one often and at all times of the day. This is the best way to determine your top 5 to start with.
 - A. Nursing homes that give good care often do so because families are engaged and advocate on behalf of the patient.
 - B. Families make more frequent visits when the facility is closer to their home.
 - C. If Medicaid facility is required, keep in mind, beds in a good facility are hard to find, so often there is a waiting list. It is best to identify the nursing home of choice sooner rather than later, and get your sister on the waiting list (if there is one). If you choose to private pay, the beds are more accessible.
 - D. Also ask the Pre Admission Review Process staff if the private pay facilities require a Pre-admission Review?

- a. Some may use the same procedures that Medicaid facilities use even though they are not a Medicaid certified nursing home.
- 5. Research and visit 3-5 nursing homes.
 - A. Schedule a formal tour at each location and also consider visiting at random hours.
- 6. Resources to utilize:
 - A. The Alzheimer's Association has a community resource finder, and you can search for housing options, medical services, and more:
<https://www.communityresourcefinder.org/>
 - B. There is a government web site,
<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare>, which is available for consumers. It is easy to navigate.
 - a. One can look at all of the nursing homes in the state of WI or in your area, who are Medicaid, Medicare certified facilities and determine what their latest surveys were, how they compared to others in the state, and what problems were seen during the survey process.
 - b. We would advise that once you have a few that you would like to tour that you visit this website and review their last surveys. This will allow you to address any areas of concern during your visit.
- 8. Get in contact with your/a Service Support Assistant (SSA) at your local Aging & Disability Resource Center.
 - A. They will be able to provide more information on the process and eligibility for a waiver.
 - B. He/She will be another key support for going through this process and will be able to help with the Nursing Home Pre-Admission Review process.