

**Independent and Assisted Living Facilities in the Greater Atlanta Region**

There are nearly 100 independent and assisted living facilities in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Choosing the right facility for your loved one is a very personal decision. There are many factors that will contribute to your decision, including location, cost, level of care available, and quality of facilities and staff. To help you get started on this critical decision, we have provided a short list of some of Atlanta’s top ranked independent and assisted living facilities. Please note, Brian M. Douglas & Associates is in no way affiliated with any of these facilities. They appear on this list because they were ranked among the top facilities in the area by US News & World Report.

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| **1** | *Cumming Nursing Center*  For-profit Facility  Medium Size (87 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *2775 Castleberry Road*  *Cumming, GA 30041*  *(770) 781-2300*  <http://www.cummingnursing.com/> |
| **2** | *Laurel Park at Henry Medical Center*  For-profit Facility  Medium Size (89 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *1050 Hospital Drive*  *Stockbridge, GA 30281*  *(770) 507-3840*  <http://www.pruitthealth.com/microsite?facilityId=363> |
| **3** | *Manor Care Rehabilitation Center*  For-profit Facility  Medium Size (117 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *4360 Johnson Ferry Place*  *Marietta, GA 30068*  *(770) 971-5870*  <https://www.heartland-manorcare.com/locations/manorcare-rehab-center-marietta/> |
| **4** | *A.G. Rhodes Home, Inc.*  Nonprofit Ownership  Large Size (130 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *900 Wylie Road*  *Marietta, GA 30067*  *(770) 427-8727*  https://www.agrhodes.org/ |
| **5** | *Brian Center Health & Rehabilitation*  For-profit Facility  Medium Size (100 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *150 Hospital Circle, N.W.*  *Canton, GA 30114*  *(770) 479-5649*  <http://savaseniorcare.com/Default.aspx> |
| **6** | *Budd Terrace at Wesley Woods*  Nonprofit Ownership  Large Size (250 Beds)  Participates in Medicare | *1833 Clifton Road, N.E.*  *Atlanta, GA 30329*  *(404) 728-6500*  <http://www.wesleywoods.org/healthcare/budd-terrace.html> |
| **7** | *Delmar Gardens of Gwinnett*  For-profit Facility  Small Size (67 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *3100 Club Drive*  *Lawrenceville, GA 30044*  *(770) 923-3100*  <http://www.delmargardens.com/facilities/delmar-gardens-of-gwinnett-independent/> |
| **8** | *Grandview Health Care Center*  For-profit Facility  Small Size (60 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *618 Gennett Drive*  *Jasper, GA 30143*  *(706) 692-6323*  <https://www.ourparents.com/georgia/jasper/grandview_health_care_center> |
| **9** | *Gwinnett Extended Care Center*  Nonprofit Ownership  Medium Size (89 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *650 Professional Drive*  *Lawrenceville, GA 30046*  *(678) 312-3000*  <https://www.gwinnettmedical>[center.org/facilities/gwinnett-extended-care-center](http://center.org/facilities/gwinnett-extended-care-center) |
| **10** | *Heritage Inn of Barnesville Health and Rehabilitation*  Nonprofit Ownership  Medium Size (117 Beds)  Participates in Medicare and Medicaid | *946 Veterans Parkway*  *Barnesville, GA 30204*  *(770) 358-2485*  http://www.heritageinnbarnesville.org/ |

\*\* For a complete list of the US News & World Report Best Nursing Homes ratings, as well as the methodology that led them to create this list, go to<https://health.usnews.com/best-nursing-homes/area/atlanta-ga>*.* You can also see details about each facility on this site, including how they each ranked in specific criteria, inspection results, and more.

**What to Look for When Picking Out an Independent Living Facility**

Choosing a care facility for your loved one can be a stressful and complex decision. There are dozens of factors to consider, and you want to select the right place that will provide excellent care and improve your loved one’s quality of life. However, one of the biggest factors that can often edge out other considerations is cost. It is well-known that long-term nursing care can really add up, especially if insurance doesn’t provide much help. In Atlanta, the average cost of a nursing home is $7,025 per month -- that is nearly $1,000 above the national average!

When choosing an independent or assisted living facility for your loved one, both cost and quality will require your attention. It is up to you as a caregiver to gather as much information as you can to inform your decision. Here are some suggestions of what to look for when you are choosing a nursing facility.

*Be realistic about location*

It may be a little less expensive to choose a facility that is not right on a bus line or that is a little further out of town. If transportation and time are not issues for your family, a care facility that’s a little out-of-the-way might be a good way to save some money. However, make sure you are thinking realistically about your time. If the facility you choose is too far or too difficult to get to, your loved one may end up suffering if friends and family don’t visit as often.

*Stop, look around, and take it all in*

When you visit a nursing facility, you will likely meet with an administrator and receive a tour. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn as much as you can about the place (more on this in the next section). However, be careful not to spend the whole visit scribbling notes and talking to the administrator.

A visit is a unique opportunity to learn far more than cost, dining options, and emergency procedures -- although these are all important. Take the time to sit in a busy area of the facility, like the dining room or common area. Look at the faces of the residents. Do they seem happy and comfortable? Watch for any signs of distress, and observe the interactions between residents and staff. Take a look at the staff as well. Do they seem stressed out or over worked?

Look around. Is the facility clean and well-kept? Do you notice any hazards? What about sound, smell, feel? Are there any annoying sounds or unpleasant smells? Are the common areas kept at a comfortable temperature? Are they well-lit?  How does the space make you *feel*? Is it comfortable or clinical?

Taking the time to settle into the place and get a feel for its character can help you avoid some very unpleasant mistakes. While an independent living facility may be perfect on paper, it may not be right for your loved one. Make sure you set aside enough time to simply observe the facility and imagine your loved one there, in addition to a meeting and a tour.

**Questions to Ask Directors and Administrators**

When you arrange a visit at an independent living facility, you will often be assigned a director or administrator who will meet with you to answer questions and take you on a tour. As a caregiver, you are likely very concerned about your loved one, and you probably have plenty of questions running around in your head. Before you arrange any meetings, it is important that you get these questions down in writing. When you are visiting a facility, it is easy to forget your questions or become distracted by amenities. Keep a notebook with your questions written out. When you visit a facility, bring the notebook along and take notes on the answers and information you receive. Keeping your notes all in one place will make comparing facilities easier and will help you make an informed decision.

If you are struggling to think of questions to ask, or if you are afraid that you might forget to ask about something important, take a look at the following suggested questions. They will provide a starting point when meeting with nursing facility directors or administrators.

*Staff and Medical Personnel*

* How long do nurses and aides spend with residents each day?
* How is staff turnover? How long have nurses been on staff?
* Are caregivers consistently assigned to the same residents on a daily basis?
* What is the medical staff to residents ratio at any given time?
* How many registered nurses and licensed personnel work on staff

*Medical Care and Services*

* What medical services and procedures can be performed at the facility?
* Is the facility equipped to handle rehabilitation from injury or surgery?
* Is the facility equipped to manage chronic conditions?
* Is there a specialty unit to manage Alzheimer’s? Where is it located? What are the safety protocols in place?

*Inspection Results*

* When was the last time the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services conducted an inspection of the facility?
* Is the annual survey report available?\*\*[[1]](#footnote-2)

*Resident Care, Hygiene, and Personal Space*

* How often are individual care plans reviewed and updated?
* Can residents bring personal belongings and furniture into their rooms?
* Does each resident have his or how own storage space? Where is it located?
* Does each resident share a room or a bathroom?
* Do residents get to choose their roommates?
* What are the standard care protocols for residents who are not mobile?
* Is the special equipment available for residents with special needs (for example, mattresses to prevent pressure sores)?

*Insurance Accepted*

* Is the facility certified by Medicare and Medicaid?
* How long has the facility been certified?
* If a resident comes in as a private-payer and then runs out of money, what procedures are in place to assist keeping the resident at the facility?

*Food and Dietary Restrictions*

* What is the food like at the facility? Can you see a sample menu?
* Do residents have daily choices for food?
* Are meals served at particular times or are they available all day?
* How and where is food served?
* Are special diets accommodated?
* How are cultural and individual food preferences satisfied?

*Activities and Environment*

* Are there religious services available to the residents? How often? Where are they located?
* Is there a safe place for residents to enjoy outdoor spaces?
* Are there exercise or fitness programs available to residents?
* What social events are available to residents?
* Is there a library with large print and audio books?
* Are there planned activities for residents?

*Transportation*

* How is resident transportation arranged?
* Is transportation provided for off-site medical treatment? For local stores?

**Information to Prepare Before Entering a Residential Care Facility**

After you have chosen an appropriate independent living facility for your loved one, you will need to begin preparing him or her to make the transition into their new residence. Often this can mean clearing out an old home, packing valuables into storage, and organizing years of papers. Over a lifetime, a lot of stuff can accumulate, and it can take a while to make sense of it all. However, it is important that a few necessary documents be gathered and kept in a safe place before moving a loved one into a residential care facility.

Once all of the following documents have been gathered together, it is a good idea to make multiple copies. The originals should be kept in a safe place where a trusted individual can access them. Copies should be available both to the primary emergency contact and to the nursing facility staff, where appropriate. Documents that should be provided to the assisted living facility have been marked with a ✓.

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| *Emergency Contact List* | ✓ |
| *List of close relatives and friends, and contact information* | ✓ |
| *Medications List* | ✓ |
| *Allergies and Diagnosed Medical Conditions* | ✓ |
| *Durable Power of Attorney* | ✓ |
| *Advance Health Care Directive* | ✓ |
| *HIPAA Release Form* | ✓ |
| *Living Will* | ✓ |
| *Last Will and Testament* |  |

When gathering these documents into a binder, include a table of contents that lists which documents are included, the contact person if the originals need to be obtained, and the date when they were each last updated.

A close family member, friend, or attorney should be trusted to keep all original documents and important records. Other records that should be gathered and kept in a safe place include

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| *Social Security Card* |
| *Passport* |
| *Identification Cards* |
| *Trust Documents* |
| *Life Insurance Policy Documents* |
| *Long-term Care Insurance Policy Documents* |
| *Funeral Arrangements and Final Wishes* |
| *Mortgage and Loan Documents* |
| *Car Insurance Policy Documents* |
| *Employment Contracts* |
| *Partnership Agreements* |
| *Stock Option Documents* |
| *Children’s Birth Certificates* |
| *Marriage/Divorce Certificates* |
| *Titles and Deeds* |
| *Checking/Savings/Bank Account Information* |
| *Credit Card Information* |
| *Brokerage Account Information* |
| *Retirement Accounts/Statements/Pension Information* |
| *Beneficiary Designation Forms* |
| *Transfer on Death Forms* |

Along with these documents, a trusted family member or friend should also keep a list of the following important information:

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| *Home Safe Combination* |
| *Home Security System Code* |
| *Smartphone, Tablet, Laptop Unlock Code* |
| *Location of Keys: home, car, safe deposit box, etc.* |
| *Password Document for all online accounts and social media* |

1. \*\* When looking at the annual survey report, you will want to see lower-than-average deficiencies and zero reports of mistreatment, actual harm, or immediate jeopardy. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)