

Key Considerations in Selecting a Nursing/Residential Home

By Shirley-Ann Brathwaite *RN/RM/CHN*

*Advisory and Inspection Coordinator for Nursing Homes, Senior Citizens' and
Maternity Homes*

The Health Services (Private Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Senior Citizens' Homes and Maternity Homes) Regulations 2005

- ▶ Approval and issuing of licenses
- ▶ Suitable medical attention
- ▶ Services of dietician or nutritionist are available
- ▶ Distance between each beds
- ▶ Ramps, toilet seats and appliances for use by incapacitated persons.
- ▶ Ratio of care givers to patients
- ▶ Adequate emergency water supplies
- ▶ Laundry facilities
- ▶ Admissions register

Advisory and Inspection Committee

- ▶ Nutrition Officer
- ▶ Public health nurse (yours truly)
- ▶ Public health inspector
- ▶ Drug inspector (pharmacist)
- ▶ Other disciplines can be co-opted as needed

Criteria for Opening a Nursing/Senior Citizens' Home

1. Permission from Town and Country Planning
2. Must be approved by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
3. Must be registered as a business by Corporate Affairs
4. Certificate from the Barbados Treasury is required
5. A Fire Certificate is required
6. Permission must be granted from the Ministry of Health
7. Liability insurance is required
8. Restaurant license
9. Barbados Nursing Council registration
10. Compliance with the Health Services Act

Key Considerations

1. Type of care needed:

- ▶ Senior citizens' vs. nursing homes,
- ▶ Assisted living
- ▶ Specialist homes
- ▶ Geriatric hospital

2. Financial Situation:

- ▶ Your budget
- ▶ Consider extra costs (E.g. adult nappies, toiletries etc.)

Options

- i. District/Geriatric Hospitals (Government run and free) and other government facilities
- ii. Alternative Care of the Elderly Program (ACEP): 65 years or older and is paid for the Government once specific criteria are met

3. Location of Home

- ▶ Near relatives or in a familiar place

Key Considerations

4. Religious Affiliations

- ▶ Diet (e.g. vegetarian)
- ▶ Religious celebrations (e.g. Christmas)

5. Personal Belongings

- ▶ Being able to bring items such as furniture and familiar items into the home.

6. Privacy

- ▶ Shared vs Private rooms

7. General Facility Considerations

- ▶ Size
- ▶ Mobility of person: E.g. single story vs multi-story buildings

8. Staffing

- ▶ Staff turnover

9. Activities

- ▶ Does the home offer activities/hobbies that are enjoyed by the resident?

Key Considerations

10. Policies of the home

- ▶ Mission statement
- ▶ Access to telephone
- ▶ Access to their own doctor
- ▶ Approach to treating visiting behavioral difficulties
- ▶ Use of restraints
- ▶ Safety and Security (e.g. Cameras, security guards, fencings/walls, fire alarms, staff trained in emergency procedures etc.)
- ▶ Flexibility of visiting hours
- ▶ How much freedom is allowed; Can residents choose when to eat, sleep and bathe?

11. Get References

- ▶ Visitors
- ▶ Other patients and their relatives

Questions?