



**CARE Patrol**<sup>™</sup>  
Your Partner In Senior Care Solutions



## Assisted Living Communities Vs. Nursing Homes

CarePatrol is fortunate to help seniors find safe living options. We are often asked to help clients understand the difference between assisted living communities (AL) and nursing homes, also known as skilled nursing facilities or long-term care (LTC). Most nursing homes have 2 different areas of care, rehabilitation for a short-term stay and LTC for extended stays. However, there is often confusion on which kind of care is offered at each location. Seniors are usually deciding between LTC and AL.

Care facilities are able to attend to a wide range of clients depending on the specific location. Some locations license communities to a high level of care depending on their training, staffing, etc. Below is a comparison of care abilities.

Assisted Living (AL) Communities	Nursing Homes (Skilled Nursing Facilities or LTC)
AL locations can help clients with activities of daily living such as total care for those who are bed-ridden or undergoing hospice. Depending on the community, some can help seniors transition from bed to chair with two people assisting.	LTC locations typically take care of patients that are more medically complex and need care such as IV therapy, feeding tubes, bed sores that are large and deep, and ventilators. You have to medically qualify for admission to LTC and require 24/7 nursing care.
They have specialized areas for dementia care, or there are dedicated AL communities for dementia care.	Some LTC facilities have specialized areas for dementia care, and they can assist with clients who have persistent behavioral problems.
AL facilities have private rooms. Many have kitchenettes and other home-like amenities.	LTC accommodations feature private and semi-private rooms without kitchenettes and feel much more like a clinical environment.
UDOH regulations include requiring a delegating nurse assigned to each community. Some ALs have part-time or full-time 24/7 nursing. All have 24/7 caregivers.	LTC includes nursing 24/7.

Call today to discuss your needs!



Assisted Living Communities (AL)	Nursing Home (Skilled Nursing Facilities or LTC)
AL locations allow you to leave as often or as long as you like with notification to the community.	You can only leave nursing homes for medical visits and procedures or for personal reasons for four hours per day with a physician order.
AL facilities offer physical and occupational therapy following the outpatient Medicare therapy regulations, which means you can have therapy longer in most cases.	They offer physical and occupational therapy following the Medicare inpatient regulations that allow for up to 100 days, depending on insurance, if the patient is improving.
Coverage for AL care includes private pay, LTC Insurance, VA Aid and Attendance, or a New Choices Waiver. You maintain control of your finances.	Medicare covers rehabilitation. LTC is covered by private pay, LTCI, or Medicaid. Income/assets may be assigned to the LTC staff.
In most cases AL is less expensive than LTC. They typically have a room charge and a level of care charge that will total the monthly fee. Cost depends on the type of AL and services provided.	For LTC, there is one fee per day, per type of room, rather than the level of care. Cost averages \$10,000 a month. Medicaid can pay after completing the application with a five-year look back and spending your assets.
<b>Services include:</b> three meals and snacks each day, laundry, room cleaning, medication management, all personal care included in the care plan, activities, and in some cases, transportation to physician offices.	<b>Services include:</b> three meals and snacks each day, laundry, room cleaning, medication management, all personal care included in the care plan, physician services, and incontinence supplies.

When deciding between an AL community and nursing home, make sure to weigh your loved one's needs, ask plenty of questions about what each location offers, and tour the sites.

Working with CarePatrol gives you unbiased and timely information about the current quality of care at each location. At any given time, there are communities that will not receive referrals until they address necessary changes for quality needs. CarePatrol has offices throughout the U.S. and works locally to coordinate a transition to another area if needed.

Call today to discuss your needs!

