



When Is It Time To Look For Assisted Living?

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Knowing when it is time to find assisted living can sometimes be a life-saving experience. Many families wait too long only to realize that their loved one would have benefited from being in assisted living earlier.

Here are some signs when you know that your loved one may need assisted living immediately.

These are signs that your loved one may need an immediate change to assisted living:

Wandering from home despite changes the caregiver has made to prevent wandering.

Wandering behavior can be extremely dangerous for a confused senior. Assisted Living homes and communities have secured environments and trained staff who know how to deal with seniors who wander.

Frequent medication mistakes.

Medication mistakes can cause injury and sometimes death. If your loved one has a hard time reading and understanding labels they could be at risk for medication mistakes. You should ask your loved one what they are taking and why they are taking it. This might be an eye opening experience for you.

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Don't Begin Your Search Until You Know
Who Made The GrAde.

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Lack of adequate food and/or fluid.

Dehydration is one of the top reasons seniors end up in the emergency room. Sometimes seniors are unable to stand long enough or safe enough to make a quality meal from themselves. They may say that they can still cook for themselves, but can they really perform all the tasks that are needed to make themselves a quality well rounded meal. If your loved one is diabetic they could be at even more risk. Don't just assume that your parent is getting adequate food and fluid, actively keep an eye on them to see if they are meeting this need.

An unsafe/unclean home environment (not taking garbage out, dirty dishes).

Having an unsafe home environment can be dangerous for seniors with immobility problems. It could also be an indication for depression or loneliness. Having obstacles on the floor in a home can lead to increased falls and broken bones. This could also lead to unsanitary conditions and illness. Keep an eye out for changes in your loved one's environment.

Unsafe behavior (leaving stove on, exterior doors open at night).

I have personally seen to many homes burnt to the ground because of seniors leaving the stove on and smoking while on oxygen. This is the single most dangerous situation that seniors find themselves in.

Physical abuse of spouse or other in-home caregiver.

Senior spouse abuse has been on the rise over the past few years. Since seniors bruise easily it has been a hidden problem disguised as a fall. Other times a senior with dementia can be the victim of abuse from a stressed out caregiver, whether paid or family. Seniors do not deserve to live in an environment where they are scared and can not defend themselves. Assisted Living is an excellent way if gaining some of the dignity that they may have lost.

Need for night-time supervision that cannot be met by in-home caregiver.

Night-time supervision for a senior can be a difficult task to staff safely. Many seniors suffer from Dementia, Alzheimer's or "sun-downer's" syndrome. They can be very difficult to manage at night and can cause premature caregiver stress and burn-out. Having different and fresh caregivers such as in assisted living can create a safe and responsive environment to these confused seniors.

Increased Falls

If your loved one has been showing signs of increased falls, it is time for assisted living. Fall related deaths are one of the top killers of the elderly. Broken hips cause immobility problems and decreased life satisfaction. It is time for assisted living if your loved one is falling on a frequent basis or have the potential to fall due to gait problems, weakness or dehydration.

Free Assisted Living & In Home Referrals



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CarePatrol is a Free Senior Referral Service to help you find Quality Assisted Living, Nursing Home, Alzheimer's & Dementia Care, In Home Care Services as well as other Senior related services.

CarePatrol knows that finding assisted living or other care for your loved one can be a stressful and difficult time in your life. The last thing you should have to worry about is if the assisted living home or community you choose will be a safe and reliable place.

After many hours of research, CarePatrol has created a proprietary algorithm that assigns a letter grade to each and every assisted living home and assisted living community based on their latest state survey.