

# Checklist for Choosing an Assisted Living Community for Cancer Care

When you need specialized care, such as cancer care, it's important to know what supports and services prospective assisted living communities have in place to meet your needs. Use this checklist as you evaluate different communities to ensure that the one you choose offers the medical, boarding, and dining accommodations you need to best manage your condition.

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## Medical Considerations

- How close is the community to where you receive cancer treatment?
- Is the community near your primary care doctor, oncologist and other health care providers?
- Does the community provide transportation to and from medical appointments?
- Does the community have on-call physicians or offer quick access to medical care?
- Does the community offer on-site chemotherapy, laboratory testing, X-rays and other services that could make it easier for you to receive cancer treatment and monitoring?
- Does the person in charge of medication management have experience working with residents who have cancer?
- Do any staff members have certifications in cancer care?

## Care Planning

- Will someone assess my needs and create a written plan for my care? If so, does that person have experience working with residents who have cancer?
- Does the facility have any relationships with nursing homes or hospitals in case my condition changes, and I need more care? If so, do any of them offer specialized care for people with cancer?
- Are there extra fees for cancer-related services? If so, are any of them covered by Medicare or another health insurance plan?
- Are there support groups on-site for residents with cancer?

## Resident Rooms or Apartments

- Is there enough space in the private living areas for any medical equipment you need while you're receiving cancer treatment? This includes walkers, wheelchairs, oxygen tanks, IV poles, and other equipment used to treat cancer.
- Do the private living areas seem to have enough room for everything you want to bring from home? This includes items you need to feel more comfortable during your cancer treatment.
- Do residents with cancer have to share a room and a bathroom with others?

## Dining Services

- Does the chef have experience preparing meals tailored to the needs of residents with cancer?
- If you need to adjust your diet due to changes in your cancer treatment, can the community accommodate your needs?
- Are residents permitted to take food from the dining room back to their private quarters? If not, are there any exceptions for residents with cancer who might need snacks on hand in case they experience nausea as a side effect of treatment?