

Questions to ask when considering an assisted living community

Is transportation available to access community activities? Is transportation only available at certain times, or can you access transportation whenever you need it? Will it take you to the specific events or places that you wish to visit? Is there an extra cost for transportation?

What is the ALR's policy about having meals delivered to a resident's room? Is this allowed? Is there a charge or limit on the number of times you may have a meal delivered to your room?

What is the ALR's policy and procedure for responding to residents' medical emergencies?

In the event of an accident or incident involving a resident, is your designated "responsible party" always notified?

What is the ALR's policy for recording and following your wishes in legal documents such as a living will, a health care proxy, a durable power of attorney, etc.?

Can you remain at the ALR if you become confined to bed?

Does the ALR accommodate terminally ill residents and their families? If you pay to have hospice care in the ALR do you still have to pay the monthly fee for services — even if you are not using those services?

What personal care services are available and how are they billed?

How is the cost for additional services which are not included in your service plan determined? Is it based on actual time or by task? If by time, how is the time calculated? By task?

Is housekeeping included with the base service package? Is it daily housekeeping or weekly housekeeping? Who is responsible for trash removal?

If you need skilled nursing or other services, can you hire someone from the community to come into the ALR to assist you? Is there someone at the ALR available to help you hire such services from an outside provider?

What type of assistance with medications is available? Does the ALR provide Limited Medication Administration or only Self-Administered Medication Management?

If you need assistance with medications, must you use a specific pharmacy or may you continue to use the pharmacy of your choice?

Can your family member continue to fill your medication or must you use a pharmacy delivery service?

Is there a doctor that visits the ALR who makes house calls that you could use as your primary care physician? Do you have to use this provider or may you continue to use your own physician offsite? (ALRs cannot require residents to use a specific medical provider).

What ancillary medical services are provided in-house? Podiatry? Dental? Vision?

What activities are offered? Is a variety of activities offered on a daily and weekly basis? Are residents active in planning activities and events? Are the activities and events well attended?