



**Choosing the Right  
Long-Term Care Facility**  
*by the  
Admissions Department  
Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center*

The decision to place a loved one in a long-term care facility is very emotional. Usually, you are faced with choosing a nursing home from a list provided by a hospital social worker, and time is of the essence.

If you are faced with making this decision, and are

struggling, ask others about their experiences. Then, visit several options to see which facility would be the best fit for your family member. During your visits, look at the following:

---

**1. Cleanliness** - Is the place clean? Look past furnishings and into the corners. Are any odors temporary, or a permanent problem?

**2. Recreation** - Ask to see a recreation calendar, and watch some of the programs. Are they well attended? Is the staff happy? When are religious services?

**3. Staff Attitude** - Observe the staff with the residents. Do they listen and make eye contact? Do you feel welcomed?

**4. Outdoor Activities** - If your loved one likes the outdoors, is there a safe place for him/her? Does the facility host activities outdoors?

**5. Dining** - Ask about entree and alternate choices. Observe a meal. Ask about feeding should your loved one be unable to feed him/herself.

**6. Safety** - Are bathrooms accessible? How does a resident contact staff in an emergency? Ask about staffing patterns - who is caring for your loved one?

**7. Dignity** - Look at the residents. Are they dressed and well-groomed? Is staff pleasant?

**8. Moves/Discharges** - Ask under what circumstances is a resident moved.

**9. Therapies** - What therapies are available? How do residents qualify?

**10. Medical Care** - What are the physician coverage-hours for primary and specialist care? What are the facility's hospital affiliations? Are services available on site, such as dental, x-ray and ophthalmology?

**11. Laundry** - Ask about laundry services. Who does the laundry, and what does it cost?

**12. Survey Results** - What rating did the facility receive at their last NY State Department of Health Survey? What were the deficiencies, if any?

**13. Trust your instincts** - Usually your gut feeling is correct. Choose the place where you feel most comfortable.

**GURWIN JEWISH NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER**  
68 HAUPPAUGE RD • COMMACK, NY 11725  
(631) 715-2600 • WWW.GURWIN.ORG