

I. COMPARISON OF RESIDENTIAL LONG TERM CARE OPTIONS

The following are categories of State licensed facilities that provide various levels of care and assistance to residents. They are listed from the highest to the lowest level of assistance provided.

A. Nursing Homes (or Nursing Facility)

Licensed by: Licensing Bureau, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Inspected by: Certification Bureau, DPHHS

Frequency of Licensing: Yearly unannounced inspections. Scheduling varies, depending on the date of the last inspections.

Number of Residents Allowable: 2 or more

Distinguishing Characteristics of Services:

1. Residents are admitted to a facility by a doctor and remain under the doctor's care while in the facility. Doctors must visit resident's periodically to supervise their medical care.
2. Nursing services are available on a 24-hour basis.
3. Federal/state laws and regulations set the criteria for minimum care, safety and rights within the facility.
4. Laws specify professional qualifications and training for staff members working in a facility.
5. Medications are administered by licensed nursing staff.

B. Personal Care Homes (Also called board & care or assisted living facilities)

Settings vary from private homes to settings combined with retirement and nursing homes. Two levels of service exist: Category "A" and "B".

Licensed by: Licensing Bureau, DPHHS

Inspected by: Local building/fire inspectors for the building safety; Licensing Bureau for operating and care issues.

Frequency of Licensing: Normally, annual unannounced inspection. Scheduling varies, depends on date of last survey.

Number of Residents Allowable: Space requirements. Can combine "A" & "B" levels.

Payment Methods: Private pay, some state supplement, or Medicaid Waiver.

Distinguishing Characteristics of Service:

Category "A": One or more residents, depending on space.

1. Facilities must provide assistance with activities of daily living (e.g., eating, dressing, bathing, grooming).
2. Facilities must provide on-going supervision and monitoring of residents to ensure their safety.
3. Residents must self administer medications, with staff help and supervision if needed. Aides cannot administer medications.
4. Residents must be ambulatory or able to self-transfer if in a wheelchair, cannot totally be incontinent, and cannot be on any psychotropic medications to control dangerous behaviors.
5. Nursing services cannot be provided directly by the facility but are limited to 20 consecutive days in duration.
6. No direct involvement or supervision of care by doctors.

Category "B": One to five residents, depending on space.

1. Residents can exceed all care limitations for Category "A" residents and can be similar to nursing home residents.
2. Required assessment and care planning process for residents.
3. Residents with skilled nursing needs must be seen in the home by a licensed health care professional (e.g., a doctor or RN) at least quarterly to ensure their care needs are being met.

C. Comparison Between PC/AFC/RH

State laws based on continuum of care model

- Distinct gradations in care between each level
- Each level serves an important function
- Other Options – in-home care, home health, adult day care

Continuum of Care

In Home Options

Home Health Care
Adult Day Care

Residential Options

Retirement Home
PC Home A Assisted Living
Adult Foster Care

Nursing Homes
PC Homes B

- ❖ All the levels on the continuum of care are licensed by State, but by different state agencies.
- ❖ Retirement Homes, Adult Foster Care Homes, Personal Care Homes are all licensed by the same entity – the Licensing Bureau, DPHHS.

All are non-medical facilities.

- No nursing or doctor involvement required – implications
- Not staffed by medically trained personnel

All allow third party contracting of nursing services.

All covered by life safety codes.

Personal Care Level A Versus Adult Foster Care Homes

Similar residents/similar regulations

Number of residents allowable different

Personal Care Category “A” – 1 or more

- Service mainly elderly clients
- Must provide assistance with activities of daily living (ADL's) and supervision

Adult Foster Care Home – 4 residents or less

- Stresses family setting
- Smaller setting because of size limitations

Personal Care Level “B” –

- Higher Level than Level A or Foster Care
- Can be very similar to nursing home level care

Retirement Homes (RH) –

- RH law and regulations based on residents being *Independent and Competence*; able to make their own decisions and resolve problems.
- No admission or retention criteria in law, regulations
- No regulations for care, since direct care is not supposed to be required.
- Limited services – just linens and possibly meals