

# Before You Sign: The Nursing Home Admission Checklist

8 questions to ask + 5 documents to bring before your parent moves in

## Questions to ask the facility

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- ☐ What exactly is included in the daily rate - and what gets billed separately?
- ☐ How does the facility handle Medicare's 100-day skilled nursing coverage limit?
- ☐ When Medicare coverage ends, what is the private-pay daily rate?
- ☐ Who is my contact in the business office, and will I receive an itemized bill?
- ☐ Which ancillary charges (medications, supplies, therapy) typically appear on bills?
- ☐ Does the facility accept Medicaid - and what happens if the money runs out?
- ☐ What is the bed-hold policy (and cost) during hospital stays?
- ☐ How much notice do you give before a rate increase?

## Documents to bring

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- ☐ Medicare card + supplemental / Part D cards
- ☐ Medicaid card or a copy of the pending application
- ☐ Financial power of attorney and healthcare proxy
- ☐ Photo ID, current medication list, insurance contact numbers
- ☐ The admission agreement - read the arbitration clause before signing

## Billing red flags to watch after admission

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- ☐ Charges for services your parent never received
- ☐ The same dates billed twice under different line items
- ☐ "Observation status" from the hospital stay - it can void SNF coverage

*Tip: request an itemized bill every month and match it against the admission agreement.*

### Want the full walkthrough?

This checklist is the starting point. The Nursing Home Survival Guide at [SNFbooks.com](https://SNFbooks.com) walks you through Medicare vs. Medicaid, how SNF billing actually works, and how to read every line of the bill - in plain English.