

PREPARING FOR HOME CARE

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DEFINITION OF HOME CARE

- HOME CARE IS AN ARRANGEMENT FOR PROVIDING HEALTH CARE AND PERSONAL SERVICES FOR A PATIENT IN HIS OR HER OWN HOME.

THE GOAL OF HOME CARE

- THE GOAL OF HOME CARE IS TO HELP THE PATIENT ACHIEVE THE GREATEST LEVEL OF COMFORT IN THE FRIENDLY AND FAMILIAR ENVIRONMENT OF HER OWN HOME FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

RESPITE FOR THE CAREGIVER

- CARING FOR AN ALZHEIMER'S PATIENT IS A FULL TIME JOB.
- THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE FAMILY CAREGIVER ARE NEGLECTED.
- THE CAREGIVER IS FREQUENTLY ALONE WITH THE PATIENT, FEELING ISOLATED AND TRAPPED.

PLAN AHEAD

- BEGIN PLANNING LONG BEFORE DISCHARGE
- DON'T WAIT UNTIL A CRISIS OCCURS

DETERMINE YOUR NEEDS

- DO YOU NEED FULL TIME, PART TIME OR LIVE-IN HELP
- HOW MANY DAYS AND HOURS DO YOU REQUIRE
- WHICH HOURS OF THE DAY (OR NIGHT) DO YOU REQUIRE
- WHAT TASKS DO YOU WANT THE AIDE TO PERFORM.
- WHAT ARE YOUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

WHAT TASKS WILL THE HOME CARE AIDE PERFORM

- PATIENT PERSONAL CARE
- LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING
- SHOPPING
- COOKING
- LAUNDRY
- ESCORTING THE PATIENT TO THE DOCTOR, DENTIST, ETC

TYPES OF HOME CARE WORKERS

- CERTIFIED HOME HEALTH AIDE
- PERSONAL CARE AIDE
- COMPANION
- HOUSEKEEPER

ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE PATIENT

- PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS (ALZHEIMER'S)
- STAGE OF THE ILLNESS
- SLEEP PATTERNS
- BEHAVIOR PATTERNS
- FUNCTIONAL PATTERNS
- THERAPEUTIC NEEDS
- CAPABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF THE FAMILY CAREGIVER

WHAT ARE YOUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- **MEDICARE DOES NOT PAY FOR
CUSTODIAL HOME CARE**
- DO YOU HAVE LONG TERM CARE
INSURANCE
- HOW MUCH CAN YOU AFFORD TO PAY

HOW TO SELECT A HOME HEALTH CARE AGENCY

UTILIZE COMMUNITY
RESOURCES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
- THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING
- SUPPORT GROUPS
- GERIATRIC PHYSICIANS
- MEMORY CLINICS

TYPES OF AGENCIES

- LICENSED AGENCIES
- CERTIFIED AGENCIES
- COMPANION SERVICES
- NURSE REGISTRY

PROBLEMS OF PRIVATE HIRING

- YOU HAVE TO INTERVIEW AND CHECK REFERENCES YOURSELF.
- THERE IS NO BACKUP IF AIDE IS SICK OR NEEDS TIME OFF
- YOU MUST PAY SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES
- HOWEVER, PRIVATE HIRES COST LESS

QUESTIONS FOR THE AGENCY

- HOW LONG HAS THE AGENCY BEEN IN BUSINESS?
- DOES THE AGENCY PROVIDE TRAINING IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?
- DOES THE AGENCY PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT AND SUPERVISION BY A REGISTERED NURSE?
- WHAT DOES THE AGENCY CHARGE?
- WHAT SERVICES ARE INCLUDED IN THE AGENCY FEE?
- DOES THE AGENCY PROVIDE BACK-UP HELP IN AN EMERGENCY?
- IS THERE A MINIMUM OF DAYS AND HOURS?
- DOES THE AGENCY PAY TAXES AND CARRY ACCIDENT INSURANCE FOR THE AIDES?
- ARE AGENCY WORKERS BONDED?

PLAN AHEAD

- AVOID A “CARE GAP” OR A DELAY IN THE START OF CARE
- IMPLEMENT A PLAN THAT IS COMFORTABLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR THE PATIENT AND YOU.
- PLANNING AHEAD IS THE KEY!