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Where facility policies and practices differ, it's wise to ask the following questions when you are contacted by the facility.

- ~ Will I have a private room or is it a shared room? Is there an additional charge for private rooms?
- ~ Do you have any restrictions regarding residents? Include any of the following if they pertain to you: smoking, drinking, medical marijuana, power chairs, power scooters
- ~ Do you have visiting hours?
- ~ Do you have an in-house physical rehab program or does the physio come in?
- ~ Do you label clothing and what is the charge?
- ~ Do you charge for incontinent briefs or are they provided?
- ~ Do you charge for over the counter medications or are all medications included?
- ~ What kind of furnishings can we bring in?
- ~ Can I bring my television? What is the charge for cablevision?
- ~ Can I have a private telephone installed in my room?
- ~ Can I bring a computer or other electronic equipment?
- ~ Is there any limitation on pictures for the walls?
- ~ What arrangements do you have for foot-care and is there a charge?
- ~ What arrangements do you have for dental hygiene and is there a charge?
- ~ What happens if we need a wheelchair or a walker?
- ~ How do you choose who goes on bus trips and is there a charge?

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We're Wait-listed for a Care Facility -- What Now?

Residents and Families often find the transition to a care facility emotionally difficult. One of the ways to get through the process successfully is to be prepared.

The Provincial First Available Bed Policy means that beds are allocated based on urgency and that the choice of facility may not be met with the first placement. Here-in is a generic checklist of things to do in preparation for moving into any facility.



This brochure is prepared for you by:

Glacier View Lodge
2450 Back Road
Courtenay, B.C V9N 8B5
250-338-1451
www.glacierviewlodge.ca



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Waitlisted For A Care Facility....

Finances:

- Do you have a recent Power of Attorney in place to manage finances? Documentation requirements for Power of Attorney have changed within the last 5 years. It might be wise to have a notary review the POA and tell you exactly what you can and cannot do under that document.
- Have you provided Home and Community Care with a copy of last year's income tax statement?
- Your monthly rate is based on your income (not assets). If you do not provide the income tax statement, the default rate is the highest rate of about \$3444 per month.
- Do you know the monthly rate you will be paying for placement?
- Will the remaining spouse have enough funds to live on? It is worth working out a budget for both spouses ahead of time. You may need to file for financial separation, so that spouses are treated as individuals to maximize funds for the spouse staying at home.
- In the case of decline in cognition and/or cooperation, you may need a doctor's letter of mental incompetence to manage finances or decision-making. If you did not put a POA in place when the person was competent or cooperative enough to sign a legal document, you may need to consult with a lawyer regarding Committee.

For more information about Long Term Care on Vancouver Island, see <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/home-care-assisted-living-long-term-care/long-term-care-options>

Health Care:

- Do you have a physician in the Comox Valley who is willing to follow the resident in facility? Be advised that some physicians will not go to all facilities.
- If your resident is moving from outside the area, the onus is on the family to find a local doctor for the resident. If you know your resident will be starting with a new doctor, contact the existing physician and ask for him/her to transfer care and provide a healthcare history to the new physician.
- Do you have a Representation Agreement for health care decisions? If not, have you decided who in the family will be the primary contact and who will sign consent and make health care decisions on behalf of the resident if he/she is unable?
- If you have any health care benefits, prepare the relevant papers and identity numbers.
- Medications will be provided by the pharmacy that services the facility. The pharmacist will need to know if you have special coverage.
- Preparing a medical and functioning history and a list of allergies for the new facility will be helpful for the staff.
- Be prepared to be asked to provide the name of a funeral home of your choosing to be on file.

Belongings:

- All items you expect to bring into facility including personal items such as dentures, glasses, hearing aids, and mobility aids should be labeled. Most facilities have a labeling system for clothing for a fee.
- Consider insuring glasses, dentures, hearing aids, walkers, wheelchairs, televisions and other personal belongings against loss and breakage.
- Prepare to pack enough loose-fitting washable clothing for a 2 week vacation. Closet space is limited. Anything that requires dry cleaning could get thrown in the wash by mistake. Footwear should fit well and have non-skid soles.
- Facilities have different restrictions on furnishings, wall hanging pictures, TV size, computers and may have charges for other types of appliances such as air conditioners.

