



A BETTER APPROACH TO ELDERCARE

Checklist of Items to Review with Elder Client/Responsible Party

- Payment issues/options: Long Term Care Insurance/Private Pay/Medicaid
- Living arrangement options:
 - ❖ Staying at home with care (family, private duty care or living with a child)

Special considerations:

Dynamics: often a local child becomes caregiver or one relocates, thinking this is temporary, parent becomes more dependent on that child leading to jealousy/complex feelings (appearance of undue influence), parent may feel isolated, differing expectations of siblings

Help clients understand options to assist

Add language to legal docs allowing family member to be paid for caregiving or private duty care (should child be paid market rate?)

Limitations: when is staying home unrealistic/too expensive?, using a geriatric care manager to facilitate the conversation and make independent, expert analysis and suggestions

- ❖ Continuing Care Retirement Centers
 - ❖ Independent Living
 - ❖ Assisted Living
 - ❖ Nursing Home Care
- How does client want money allocated/what are priorities?

- Benefits/program information:
 - ❖ Medicare
 - ❖ Observation vs. Admission
 - ❖ Home Health Episodes
 - ❖ Primary Care Physician and Hospitalist Care
 - ❖ Long Term Care Insurance
 - ❖ Care Coordination Benefit
 - ❖ VA Benefits
 - ❖ Health Care Benefits
 - ❖ Aid and Attendance
 - ❖ Medicaid (Services available and Financial Requirements)
- Client's permission to spend their savings (i.e. instructions for priorities/desires for money, addressing family concerns)
- Legal documents for planning:
 - ❖ Durable Power of Attorney
 - ❖ Healthcare Surrogate
 - ❖ Living Will
 - ❖ Estate Plan (Will, Trust)
- Community support/coordination: Geriatric Care Management
 - ❖ Assessment
 - ❖ Care Plan
 - ❖ Organization
 - ❖ Mediator/facilitator
 - ❖ Ongoing, cost-effective relationship
 - ❖ Communication/"interpreter"

- ❖ Proactive advocate, to anticipate next steps, consistency from an expert
- Putting together a medical team
 - ❖ The “director”: the patient or his/her agent
 - ❖ Short term and long-term goals
 - ❖ Medical environment
 - ❖ Consider likely medical needs (prognosis, diagnoses, chronic/multiple conditions)-expertise needed
 - ❖ Community resources for support
 - ❖ Personalities
 - ❖ Communication tips

Aging Wisely’s geriatric care management team is here to help both families and professionals serving elders, with a “better approach to eldercare”. We offer *solutions when you need them* anytime at 727-447-5845 or www.agingwisely.com. Check out our website for lots of great resources on all aspects of eldercare and the latest news and information.

This information was provided by Linda Chamberlain, Board Certified Elder Law Attorney and Dr. Kerry Chamberlain, Hematologist/Oncologist, founders of Aging Wisely. They presented “A Better Approach to Eldercare” at ASA’s 2014 Aging in America Conference.