

QUESTIONS TO ASK

If you are considering an 'assisted living' facility for yourself or someone you know. Researcher Marcy Cohen has these suggestions.

- 1) Are staff on duty so as to cover 24 hours and how many staff are on at night? What are emergency procedures where there is no nurse coverage?
- 2) What does the basic financial charge include? Rent, all meals, some meals, laundry, cleaning? What is the cost?
- 3) Do residents pay for drugs, medical supplies, recreational activities, diapers or additional care?
- 4) What happens if a resident falls and needs extra care? Who provides and who pays?
- 5) What happens if a resident's health deteriorates over time? Do they have to move or will support be provided? Will there be additional charges?
- 6) Does the institution accept people in the early stages of dementia? If so, is this required by the health authority?
- 7) Do managers feel that residents of previous Intermediate Care 2 are capable of doing as well in the new Intermediate Care 2 facilities?
- 8) What training levels have been reached with staff? Care aides?
- 9) Is there a licensed RN on the site? An LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse)? Do you think the pay scale is satisfactory or should staff be hired at lower salaries?
- 10) How will you be assured of assistance from a registered nurse when there is a shortage within the community?