

## Finding your new home

**We suggest you think about the following when looking for a nursing home:**

- Ideal nursing home attributes
- Quality of care
- The atmosphere and religious outlook
- Food and recreational activities offered
- Special needs and preferences
- Research the nursing homes in your area



*...it's your choice*

## Things to do

Ensure you or someone you trust visits your shortlist of nursing homes. All good nursing homes will welcome your visit, **we suggest that you:**

- Make an appointment initially
- Make unplanned visits at other times to clarify any issues and ensure quality of care is consistent
- Take a formal tour with the Director of Nursing
- Ask questions –take a list with you
- Look around and ask questions to get a better picture of the services, activities, and quality of care and life for the residents

## Some questions to ask



- Is the nursing home close to family and friends so they can visit?
- Are there special arrangements to help residents who may become confused in the facility?
- Are there security and monitoring systems in place to safeguard resident's wellbeing?
- Does the nursing home provide preventive care to maintain resident's health?
- Does the nursing home have a screening program for immunisations such as Flu (influenza) and pneumonia?
- What are the arrangements for emergencies with nearby hospitals?

## Who are NHI?

Nursing Homes Ireland is the representative organisation for the private and voluntary nursing homes sector. We work hard to protect the rights of older people, particularly those living in nursing homes. We also provide training, support and advice for all of our members to ensure the best of care is provided.

It is our goal to make sure that everyone who chooses a nursing home for the next step in their lives experiences a happy, caring and safe environment.

## Who Else Can I Talk To?

There are many great contacts and resources below for you to utilise to assist you with your information gathering:

 Age Action Ireland	..... 01 475 6989	www.ageaction.ie
 Alzheimer Society of Ireland	..... 01 207 3800	www.alzheimer.ie
 Citizens Information Service	..... 1890 777 121	www.citizensinformation.ie
 Department of Health and Children	..... 01 635 4000	www.dohc.ie/issues/fair_deal/
 HSE Information Line	..... 1850 24 1850	www.hse.ie
 Health Information & Quality Authority - Inspection reports	..... 021 240 9300	www.hiqa.ie
 Myhomefromhome	.....	www.myhomefromhome.ie
 Nursing Homes Ireland	..... 01 429 2570	www.nhi.ie

### NURSING HOMES IRELAND MEMBER DETAILS:



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# Nursing Home Care it's your choice...

Advice on choosing  
a Nursing Home  
& Understanding  
the  
"Fair Deal"



**NHI**   
nursinghomesireland

## A new chapter, a new beginning...

If you are reading this guide chances are you that you're thinking of moving to a nursing home or helping a relative or friend make the same decision. This guide was developed in collaboration with a number of experts from the older person community, including people just like you!

Nursing Home owners and staff appreciate the significance of this important life decision and believe enlightening you of choices available and your rights will enable you to make the right decision for you or your relative.

Home as you knew it will be very different. Living in a Nursing Home opens up a new world of opportunity. Your home life will embrace a new community of people with shared histories, perhaps familiar faces from your local community and an opportunity to meet new people, round the clock medical care and support, safety and security, expert care from dedicated staff trained and experienced in nurturing and providing care in your community.

*This guide aims to provide you with the advice and information you need, taking personal, practical and essential criteria into consideration:*

- Advice of your rights and choice available
- Advice on how to find your ideal nursing home
- A list of key older person contacts who can offer advice and support
- A clear explanation of the Fair Deal scheme and what it offers.

## Your home, Your choice – the Nursing Homes Support Scheme

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Fair Deal) is a new scheme of financial support for people who need long-term nursing home care. It replaces the Subvention Scheme which has been in existence since 1993. Under the Fair Deal Scheme, you will make a contribution towards the cost of your care and the State will pay the balance. This applies whether the nursing home is public, private or voluntary – it's your choice.

*The Fair Deal is designed to make residential nursing home care:*

- Accessible
- Affordable and
- Anxiety-free.

## The Essentials: Understanding the “Fair Deal”

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme, or “Fair Deal” is a method of paying for nursing home care available to you. *The process consists of five steps.*

### Who can apply?

Anyone who needs long term nursing home care can apply. You must be ordinarily a resident in the state ie living here for at least 1 year. The Nursing Homes Support Scheme does not make a distinction on age grounds.

#### STEP 1: APPLYING FOR THE FAIR DEAL SCHEME

You need to complete a Form NHSS1, obtained from the HSE website or by contacting HSE on 1850 24 1850 or your HSE Local Health Office. *The application process has 2 parts:*

1. A Care Needs Assessment and a
  2. Financial Assessment.
- Applicants must sign and send the form to the HSE Nursing Homes Support Office for their area.
  - In certain cases, another person may apply on the applicant's behalf. Where a person has reduced ability to make decisions (ie diminished mental capacity) a specified person may make the application.

#### STEP 2: CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT



This assessment is carried out by healthcare professionals (eg a nurse, doctor, social worker) who consider whether a person needs nursing home care or whether they can be supported to continue living at home.

**NOTE:** Residents already in an approved nursing home before 27th October 2009 do not need to complete the care needs assessment.



#### STEP 3: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*There are 2 types of financial support available under this scheme:*

1. State Support; and
2. Nursing Home Loan (Ancillary State Support).

##### Financial Assessment & State Support

The HSE looks at the applicant's income and assets to work out what they can contribute to their care. Your contribution will be 80% of your income and 5% of the value of any assets per annum. The HSE pays the balance of the cost of care. This is called State support.

##### Nursing Home Loan

Sometimes a person's assets are tied up in land and property, including their principal residence which is not being sold. Your contribution on these assets may be deferred. This means that you do not have to find the money to pay this contribution during your lifetime. Instead, if approved, the HSE will pay the money to the nursing home on your behalf and it will be collected upon death.

This is an optional benefit of the scheme. It is effectively a loan advanced by the State which can be repaid at any time but will ultimately fall due for repayment upon death. Its purpose is to ensure that you don't have to sell assets such as your house during your lifetime.

#### STEP 4: YOUR RIGHTS - CHOOSING YOUR NURSING HOME

The HSE provide each approved applicant with a list of all approved nursing homes – private, public and voluntary. Legislation says that the choice of nursing home is the decision of the applicant and/or their family. You can choose any nursing home on the list, subject to the following 2 conditions:

1. The home must be able to cater to your needs.
2. The home must have a place available.

Once your nursing home is confirmed, you pay your contribution to the nursing home and the HSE pays the balance to the nursing home. To learn more about this scheme and if you are eligible:

CONTACT HSE infoline on **1850 24 1850**, or refer to their website for your local NHSS office [http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find\\_a\\_Service/Older\\_People\\_Services/nhss/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find_a_Service/Older_People_Services/nhss/)

##### IMPORTANT TO KNOW!

It is important to remember that the **Fair Deal only covers the cost of bed and board and nursing care**. The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) documentation makes it abundantly clear that **the fair deal specifically excludes social programmes, therapies, dental treatments, chiropody and the list goes on**. NHI has, from the outset, strongly objected to these services being kept outside the Fair Deal and will continue to do so. This is incomprehensible and in direct contravention of many of the national quality standards. A person retains their existing entitlements under other schemes such as the Medical Card scheme.