

Eldercare Issues to Review

Checklist for Families

In order to properly assist and care for an older relative, organization is key. Every family and every situation is different with unique issues, problems and challenges. It is a good idea to review what the family needs to do and what information is available. Use this list as you design a care plan and keep referring to it as time goes on and your situation may change.

MEDICAL

- What medical conditions are involved?
- What are the typical symptoms and effects of this condition or these conditions?
- What is the recommended treatment?
- What is the prognosis for the future?
- What kind of caregiving is most appropriate for the medical situation?
- What are the names and phone numbers of your relative's doctor(s)?

FINANCIAL

- What financial means are available to pay for care or for other necessities?
- Are there community based or government services available to help?
- Do you need a financial planner or elder law attorney to help organize financial matters?
- Will family members have to cover any costs from their own pockets?

LEGAL

- Are all of the legal documents, wills, powers of attorney, living wills or trusts in order?
- Do you know where they are located?
- Do you know who your elder's attorney is?

ACCESS

- Do you have keys to your elder's house and car?
- Do you have phone numbers for doctors, attorneys and other professionals?
- Could you locate and have access to important information in a crisis?

DAILY CARE

- What daily care needs does your elder have: personal care, housekeeping, home health care, or other assistance?
- When is this care most needed?
- Who will be providing this care?
- Do I know about any programs in this area to help with care?
- How are these care needs likely to change?

LONG-TERM PLANS

- What are your plans for the future?
- What will you do if there is a crisis?
- What are the likely changes in care needs in the future?

CAREGIVERS

- Who will be providing care?
- Will family members provide all of the care?
- Will outside caregivers or home care agencies be hired?

HELP

- Do you need a geriatric care manager or home care worker to help organize the day-to-day care of your relative?
- What social workers, therapists or other professionals are available to help?

TRANSPORTATION

- How will your elder get around?
- What transportation services are available in your community?
- Which of these transportation services are appropriate for your situation?

For more information or a confidential telephone consultation, please call:
PARTNERSHIP FOR ELDERCARE
1.800.94. ELDER or 212.442.3113 [in NYC]

