

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN FURNISHING A ROOM IN MEMORY CARE

A room in a memory care community is never going to be comparable to a resident’s long-time home; however, this transition can be seen as an opportunity to create a new home for the resident. It should be a comfortable, safe environment where a loved one can receive the highest level of care they need. It is important to review these considerations monthly, at a change of condition or post-fall.

BEFORE MOVE-IN

Evaluate the room and review dimensions with family. This will help determine the type of furniture needed and the layout. While you want to make the room comfortable, it is also necessary to take the “less is more” approach for the initial move in.

RESIDENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Discuss environmental preferences and routines
- Review and/or assess mobility status
- Determine the anticipated level of assistance to be provided for:
 - Transfers Showering
 - Dressing Eating
 - Toileting _____

FURNITURE & STORAGE

Bed

- Standard Hospital
- Consider outlet placement
- Size appropriate for room
- Height appropriate
- Transfer enablers

Dresser

- Drawer height appropriate for resident
- Size appropriate for room
- Drawer labels needed

Bedside table

- Size/height appropriate for room/bed
- Rounded corners or cushioned ottoman considered for safety

Lamp

- Accessible location
- Easy on/off

Seating

- Resident seating appropriate
 - Sturdy chair with arms
 - Does not swivel or rock
 - Appropriate height for mobility
 - Resident can safely transfer in/out of chair
- Visitor seating, if applicable, also appropriate for room size and sturdy for resident use

Walls/Flooring

- High color contrast to help delineate perimeters of furniture
- Fall mat in room, if applicable
- No rugs in bedroom

TV

- Mounted/secured to wall
- On console stand
- Positioned appropriately for viewing
- Cords secured and out of sight

Bathroom

- No throw rugs or bath mats
- Consider need for shower chair
- Consider need for raised toilet seat

Storage/Shelving

- Height appropriate for the resident
- Frequently accessed items easily accessible

Personal items and decorations
(photos and framed pictures)

- Cozy, yet clutter-free atmosphere
- Avoid under bed storage

ADDITIONAL MOBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Mobility status is a major factor to consider when designing a bedroom. When discussing move in with family, it is a good time to explain the space needed to safely move about the room.

No mobility aid:

- Items are within reach of standing or sitting

Two- or four-wheeled walkers

- Adequate space for the pathway to exit
- Identify placement when not in use

Wheelchair

- Adequate space for safe transfers from bed and chairs with multiple care staff in the room
- Identify placement when not in use

MAINTENANCE AFTER MOVE-IN

Since a resident's condition will change over time, it is essential to continuously adjust the room design for the safest environment possible by regularly evaluating mobility and ADL status. Consider referral to OT/PT when a change in resident status is observed.