



Finding a home health care company to trust

(MS) — Thousands of families are faced with the decision of where to turn when a loved one needs assistance or medical care. While an outside facility may be a first thought, many people routinely turn to home health care companies due to the comfort, financial savings and convenience they provide.

In general, home care is appropriate whenever a person prefers to stay at home but needs ongoing care that cannot easily or effectively be provided solely by family and friends, says the National Association for Home Care. Many people associate home care with the elderly, however it's also a viable option for babies, children, and young adults with disabilities or medical issues.

Home care generally costs one-fifth of what an outside care facility may charge with the main advantage of enabling people to receive competent, cost-effective care

that is tailored to the needs of the client. Home care allows people with special health needs to go on living normal lives and experience a higher quality of life in the comfortable and healing environment of their own homes. Services may include any of the following:

- Professional, ongoing health care, such as having a private duty nurse (registered nurse or licensed practical nurse) come to your home for extended hours of care -- like having ICU-level care in your home.

- Help with ventilator, tracheostomy, IV, gastrostomy tubes and other chronic medical needs that require professional nursing supervision and intervention.

- Skilled nursing visits to complete a single nursing task, set up a nursing plan or train care providers.

- Personal care, such as help with eating, grooming or getting

around. This can also include some homemaking tasks that require assistance, such as cleaning or laundry.

While home care is intended to offer convenience, it's important to choose a company that goes beyond traditional health care to treat the emotional needs as well as the physical needs of your family member, while simultaneously providing safety and stability.

Accurate Home Care, LLC (www.accuratehomecare.com), a trusted Minnesota-based provider of quality home health care services offering private duty nursing and personal care assistants, suggests asking these questions when selecting a home care company.

- How do you match clients with employees? Can I choose the employees that will work with my family? Do your employees have any say in the families that they work for?

- What type of training does your staff go through? What training or continuing education do you require of your staff beyond what the state requires?

- Does your company have licensed social workers on staff that could serve the emotional needs of clients and families?

- How closely does the company's supervisor evaluate the quality of home care? Do you employ nursing managers?

- How are problems addressed and resolved? Who can you or another family member contact with requests, questions or complaints?

- When will service be provided and how do you manage scheduling? Is care available round-the-clock, if necessary?

- What procedures are in place for emergencies, such as a power failure or inclement weather?

- Can the company provide references,

including a list of doctors, hospital discharge planners or other professionals who have experience with the agency, as well as a list of former clients?

- What are the credentials of the employee who will be in my home? Are all your caregivers licensed in their fields? Can he or she also provide individual references?

- How does the company handle expenses and billing? Have you ever been accused of fraud?

- Will I receive a written care plan before service begins?

Choosing a home health care company is



Families are routinely turning to home healthcare workers, such as private duty nurses, for assistance with various needs.

not a decision to take lightly. Matching a family member with the right caregiver can mean happy and safe days ahead. For more information on Accurate Home Care, visit www.accurate-homecare.com or call 1-866-214-3800.