

THE ELDER CARE PROFESSIONAL

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER 2009



10 TIPS FOR MANAGING PROFESSIONAL CARE AT HOME

Managing care at home can be more complicated than you think. There are many variables that affect the course of care, for example changes in medical condition, changes in family involvement, financial factors, changes in the caregiver's availability, changes in the household, environmental factors, changes in medications, and so on. Managing the care of a loved one is similar to managing people in business. You need to be the leader, decision maker, and the one where the buck stops. Also, you must track how your "employees" are working toward goals, which of course is the well being of your loved one. Here are 10 ways to make sure that the care being provided is meeting your loved

one's needs:

1. Keep a journal in the home for the care providers to log into each time they visit.
2. Keep track of the hours that the care providers spend in the home.
3. Make goals for your care providers such as, exercise four times a week, shower twice a week, etc.
4. Keep a chart on the refrigerator of all duties that must be performed during each visit.
5. Create a small "grab n go" envelope of copies of healthcare documents needed in a medical emergency. Keep it somewhere that's accessible.
6. Discuss status updates with your care provider once a week. Is your loved one better, worse, or the same that week?
7. Lay down your house rules up front.
8. Address issues as they occur. Do not wait for an issue to arise again.
9. Do not discuss irrelevant personal or family problems with the care provider. Keep it professional.
10. Give feedback. Tell your care providers or the overseeing company what you like and don't like in the care provided.

Discuss what you'd like the care provider to keep doing and what you'd like to change.

Change is a typical thing in any home care setting. Variables occur in the care recipient and on part of the care provider that alters the course of care. It is up to those that are overseeing the situation to try to create as much stability as possible. The key to managing professional care at home is consistent communication and taking action on the changes that need to happen.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Consumer Equity is a reverse mortgage company that helps seniors, aged 62 and over, to accomplish their financial goals and to gain peace of mind. They do this by helping seniors to draw on the equity in their home. Dennis Haber of Consumer Equity offers a complimentary consultation

to those that are struggling to afford to stay in their home and considering a reverse mortgage. There are a lot of common myths about reverse mortgages that Dennis can debunk, namely that the lender will own the home, and that there will be a monthly

mortgage payment. To learn more about why these myths are untrue and how reverse mortgages can help your clients achieve financial freedom, contact Dennis Haber at 516-222-1222.

