

Long-term Care CAN Be Different!

What Is Changing?

Nursing homes that are involved in culture change are moving toward person-directed care. They are working to create self-determination, choice, dignity and meaningful relationships for those who live and work there. The chart below illustrates some of the differences between traditional nursing home care and person-directed care.

Moving From Traditional to Person-directed care

Traditional Care	Person-directed Care
Residents are told when to wake up, go to bed, eat and bathe, based on institutional schedules and set routines.	Residents wake up, go to bed, eat, and bathe when they choose. Staff alter their work routines to honor residents' preferences.
Residents frequently have different care staff. The staff do not know the residents well so they are not familiar with their preferences. Studies find that residents often feel unknown, insecure or scared.	The same staff take care of the same resident; they know each other, and good relationships develop. This motivates staff to provide better quality care. Studies show that residents feel more secure, content and happy.
Management makes most of the decisions, often without consulting the residents, families or direct care staff.	Management seeks input from residents, families and staff before making decisions that affect their daily lives. Management also trains and supports staff to enable residents to make decisions.

Would you rather live in a traditional nursing home, or in a nursing home that is creating person-directed care?

Person-directed care is appropriate for all residents, even those with some type of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease. Residents with dementia are often unable to verbalize what they want, like or don't like. The nursing assistant who consistently works with such a resident knows this information by the resident's body language and/or information provided by the family.

Would you like to become part of Pioneer Network and an advocate for "the NEW old age?" Contact Cathy Lieblich (cathy.lieblich@pioneernetwork.net).



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