



# Comparison of Characteristics of Nursing Homes and Other Residential Long-Term Care Settings for People with Dementia: Comparative Effectiveness Review Number 79

By U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

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0.4in. Dementia is a group of neurological conditions that lead to gradual decline in mental function. It is the most common reason for entry into long-term care settings such as nursing homes and residential careassisted living. The majority of care for people with dementia is provided in the community by family members; however, increasing care needs in later stages of the illness often lead to placement in a long-term care setting. Because long-term care settings are highly varied, people with dementia and their families would benefit from evidence-based guidance on what to choose from the available options. Dementia is a syndrome with multiple causes characterized by a decline in mental function, marked most commonly by memory impairment and a reduction in at least one other area of cognitive function, such as reasoning, judgment, abstract thought, comprehension, learning, task execution, and use of language. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimers disease; other types include vascular dementia, mixed dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, and frontotemporal dementia. Dementia causes significant morbidity and mortality and creates a substantial burden on

## Reviews

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