

WHEN TO CONSIDER SPECIALIZED CARE

As sensitive and difficult as the subject is to approach, there will likely come a time when a person with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, or cognitive deficits will need more care than can be provided for safely in the home. How do families and caregivers recognize the signs to determine if the time is right to consider moving their loved one to assisted living for specialized care? Key factors to consider are:

Safety: Forgetting to turn the stove off, wandering away from the home, or driving and not being able to find one's way back home are just a few examples of situations that pose serious threats to one's safety.

Falls: Falls may become more frequent due to the disease progression and there may be associated difficulty in remembering how to use the phone to call for help, thus leaving your loved one in danger for hours or even days without assistance.

Behaviors: There may be verbal or physical aggressiveness as the disease progresses. Such behaviors usually require medications that can best be administered by licensed caregivers in facilities who can provide constant monitoring and appropriate behavioral intervention.

At Lakeside Assisted Living, our specialized care unit for Alzheimer's and dementia related illnesses provides a secure environment while offering direction, ensuring that our residents remain as independent as possible. Our caring staff provides hands-on assistance to safeguard our residents along with verbal cueing and encouragement with daily living tasks. We also offer a full program of enjoyable and familiar activities designed to engage and yet not overwhelm our residents. All of our caregivers are mandated by Maryland state law to receive specialized, ongoing training approved by the Alzheimer's Association TM (www.alz.org).

If you would like to receive more information or arrange a tour of our Compass Program, please feel free to call Roxanna Laguerre at 410-749-4480.