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industry news.

❑ Nursing Home Room Rates Increased 3% in 2007

Nursing home cost increased 3% on average across the country this year, according to the newly released 2007 MetLife Market Survey of Nursing Home and Assisted Living Costs. Assisted living costs remained virtually unchanged at \$2,969 per month or \$35,628 yearly. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home was \$213 per day or \$77,745 annually, compared to \$206 in 2006. Semiprivate rooms edged up 3% as well from \$183 per day to \$189. To learn more, go to: <http://www.metlife.com/WPSAssets/40608978001193759945V1FNursingHomeAsstLiving2007L.pdf>.

❑ Long Term Care Insurance Buyers Are Getting Younger

Eight million Americans now own long-term care insurance according to a study released by the American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance (AALTCI). The study reports the average age of buyers dropped below 60 for the first time. To learn more, contact the AALTCI by email: jslome@aaltci.org.

shop talk.

Felicia Wilson LMSW, LNHA

Holiday Ideas

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Many nursing homes have a traditional holiday dinner around the Christmas holiday season. During this time, residents and staff remember the ones who have died earlier in the year. Some of these resident's may have lived at your facility, their home, for a number of years; while others, may have been there only for a short time.

During this holiday season, take a moment to remember the residents who have passed. This can be done a number of ways. If you work in a large facility, it would be less confusing to have each unit have a memory celebration party. During this party, staff, residents and families can tell fond memories of their loved one. This would be a great activity for moderately impaired to independent residents.

Suggestions:

- Create a memory board with all of the deceased names and pictures.
- Have residents, staff and families tell stories about their loved one.
- If a chaplain is on staff and available, have him/her officiate this memory celebration.
- Have the remembrance ceremony at a convenient time of day before or after meals for residents.
- Play music that fits your population of residents.

trivia time.

What is the average number of beds per nursing home? The first ten correct responses e-mailed to support@patientplacement.com will receive a free gift. Be sure to include your mailing address in the e-mail.

Congratulations to **Rubin Smith, LaKeisha Moore, Patricia Ring, Christina Belknap, Dodie Donegan, and Antonio Canaba**. They won a free gift for answering the previous trivia question.

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fun facts

Did you know that:

- The average number of beds per home is 107, with an occupancy rate of 88 percent.
- Women are almost three times more likely to live in nursing homes than men.
- In 2000, 4.5 percent of Americans 65 years and older lived in nursing homes, a decline from 5.1 percent in 1990.
- In 1999-2000, the average nursing facility patient required assistance with 3.75 activities of daily living. Five common activities are used to measure the functionality of a patient-bathing, dressing, transferring, toileting and eating.
- 42% of nursing home patients suffer from some level of dementia.
- 33% of nursing home patients have documented symptoms of depression.
- 67% of nursing home facilities were for-profit in 1999-2000, 26% were non profit and 7% were government owned and operated.