



I, or my loved one, am living at home and want to be living at Cedarbrook. What steps do I take to be considered for admission?

- If you have not called Cedarbrook, call us at this number – 610-336-5673 or email us at cbadmissionsdept@lehighcounty.org to get the process started. We will guide you throughout the process. Until you hear back from us, this guide can answer many questions.
- The most important first step is to see a physician regarding your needs and have that physician complete an [MA51 Medical Evaluation \(click here.\)](#)
- Once completed, you can request a Level Of Care (LOC) or Functional Eligibility Determination (FED) by the Office of Aging. The office in the county in which the applicant resides must be contacted.
 - [Lehigh County](#)-610-782-3034
 - [Northampton County](#)-610-829-4540
- Please click [this link](#) to fill out the admissions application.
- After completing the form, it can be submitted directly from the website, or it can be printed and faxed to us at 610-530-9360 or emailed to cbadmissionsdept@lehighcounty.org .
- The Cedarbrook team will need to receive your last three physician visit documentation. That includes the following: Demographic information or Face Sheet, Physician Notes, Nursing Notes, Rehab Notes and a Medication List. This information can be faxed to 610-530-9360 or emailed to cbadmissionsdept@lehighcounty.org . These will be reviewed by our admissions team. Once a decision is made, you will be notified.

If my Loved One is in the hospital needing skilled nursing care, how can we have them admitted to Cedarbrook?

- Please ask your hospital Case Manager/Discharge Planner to send us a referral. The two local hospital systems, LVHN and St. Luke's, use electronic referral systems. They will send us the pertinent clinical information in those systems so that we can evaluate for possible admission. After you inform your case manager, you can also let us know of your interest by calling us at 610-336-5673.

I (or my loved one) am currently residing at another nursing home or personal care facility and want to transfer to Cedarbrook. What are the steps?

- If you have not called us, please call us at 610-336-5673. Until you hear back from us, this guide can answer many questions.
- Inform the social worker or other pertinent caregiver at the current facility of your desire to transfer so that they can facilitate the exchange of information necessary for us to evaluate your admission status.



- If you are at a personal care / assisted living, then the option process for skilled nursing must occur as follows and please ask your current facility's social worker to assist you:
- The most important first step is to see a physician regarding your needs and have that physician complete an [MA51 Medical Evaluation \(click here.\)](#)
- Once completed, you can request a Level Of Care (LOC) or Functional Eligibility Determination (FED) by the Office of Aging. The office in the county in which the applicant resides must be contacted.
 - [Lehigh County-610-782-3034](#)
 - [Northampton County-610-829-4540](#)
- Your current facility will send us pertinent clinical information such as the Face Sheet, Physician Notes, Nursing Notes, Rehab Notes, and a Medication List.

What are some reasons for needing a Skilled Nursing Facility?

- You or your loved one have significant difficulty with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, mobility and require assistance to complete those activities on a 24 hour basis.
- You or loved one are experiencing a decline in cognition and are unsafe to live alone without round the clock supports or supervision.
- You or your loved have complex medical needs that are unable to be met at home. This can include disease management, wound care, cardiac issues, and respiratory problems.
- You or your loved need therapy to get stronger to go back home safely after an accident or medical problem.
- You are in need of a respite stay.

Do you have a waiting list for admission?

- Our waiting list can vary from day to day. It depends on a variety of factors and cannot always be predicted. Some days there is no waiting list and other days there is.

What can I expect living at Cedarbrook?

- Nursing care around the clock including professional nurses.
- Your meals are tailored to your preferences and your dietary needs.
- Cedarbrook is large enough that physicians are often in the facility along with other supportive services.
- Cedarbrook considers quality of life to be paramount to what we do. There is a very active activities program, socialization, and chaplain services. Check out the [FUN here at our Facebook page.](#)

Who pays for room and board at Cedarbrook?

- Approximately 90% of our residents are covered by Medicaid for room and board. Our remaining residents are covered by Medicare A or Managed Care (generally those insurances cover short-term stays for those with skilled nursing needs), Private Insurance, or Private Pay. The Private Pay room and board rate as of July 2024 is \$345/day for a ward



room or \$360/day for a private or semi-private room. Those rates change to \$360/day and \$375/day respectively on 1/1/25.

What information is needed to apply for Medicaid?

- We will guide the application process and interface with the County Assistance Office. In general Medicaid has a 5 year look back period for financial information. The Financial Interview starts that process. An overview of what is needed for the Financial Interview is [here](#).

What other affairs should I get in order to ensure a smooth process?

- To ensure your wishes for care are honored throughout your stay, it is important to have certain items completed such as:
 - Advanced Directives / Living Wills are important to have to share with the facility as it is a way to clearly communicate your desire for life sustaining treatment and can designate a healthcare proxy to make decisions for you if you are unable to do so.
 - POA for Medical and POA for Financial tell us who will carry out your directives and affairs if you are unable to do so.
 - A designated Funeral Home will ensure your family and the facility know of this choice in the event you pass. There have been a few times when that is not communicated. In those instances when it was not communicated and the individual passes it is very difficult for the facility and especially grieving family members to decide how to proceed in the correct dignified manner as the individual would have wanted.

Many of us do get to a point in life that we are unable to make our own decisions due to medical or cognitive issues, so it is vital to specify what you want when you are able to do so to ensure you get the right care and your family and the nursing home understand your wishes. One resource for help with some of these important legal items can be found [here](#).

What does it mean to be owned by the County of Lehigh?

- [Lehigh County](#) proudly owns and operates two skilled nursing campuses, Allentown and Fountain Hill. Cedarbrook, as a County government owned enterprise, operates in a manner to provide quality of care and service. Too often in healthcare there are a number of for-profit entities who operate in a manner to enrich shareholders with obscene profit returns. At Cedarbrook the shareholders are the citizens of Lehigh County and their return on investment is excellent care and service.
- At any one point 89%-90% of our residents are covered under Medicaid. We are the safety net for skilled nursing care in Lehigh County. In all manners, the County operates Cedarbrook and the Administrator/Director, a County employee, reports to the County Executive while the Board of Commissioners votes on contractual and budgetary matters that impact the nursing home. Cedarbrook receives support from various departments of the County to operate in an optimal capacity to serve our residents.