

# VENICE PLASTIC SURGERY

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*Cosmetic, Reconstructive, Face, Breast, and Hand Surgery*

## **Choosing a Home**

You have decided it is time for the move into a home for the elderly, a nursing home, an assisted living facility. Which one do you choose? The choice is often a hard one.

What geographical location is the first question. My mother was in New Jersey. My sister wanted her to be there, close to my mother's friends. I wanted her to be here in Venice, close to me. I could see that she received the best medical care. My mother chose to stay close to my sister.

The next question is what level of medical care is needed. Some people require only apartment like living with a cafeteria setting for meals. Others may require assistance with eating and bathing but they still get around well. Then there are those who are total care. They cannot walk, some cannot converse and others are confused or demented. These are all social problems requiring different levels of care.

Then there are the medical issues. Some people have no medical problems at all. Others may be on medication and just need help taking them correctly. A patient with a drainage or feeding tube, a bad wound or one with IV requirements needs more care again.

Using a stepwise approach can quickly narrow the available options. Start with geographical location, medical requirements then social issues. Now you may have but a few choices that satisfy these criteria. Costs have to be considered. This will help narrow the field again.

If you have not done so already it is time to consult your family doctor. You also need to visit the facility. Ask around town too. Then make your choice.

Some folks medical and social needs are unstable. For these people there are care centers having a gamut of options. You can live in an apartment like setting while doing well but can move down the hall to the skilled nursing area if needed. Places that offer a wide range are best for patients with labile and rapidly changing needs.

Finally check the fine print on those contracts. I recommend consulting with an attorney. Some places only require a small up front fee while others seem to ask for many thousands, even if your stay is short. There are centers that seem to ask for liens against your estate. Be careful.

**The above represents the opinion of A. E. Haas, M.D.  
Venice Plastic Surgery, Venice Wound Center, Lakeside Medical Center**

**Just call us directly. No referral needed unless required by your insurance company**

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