

Arranging for services: How often are there rate increases in care?

Increases are certain. Because hourly wages are a primary component of the hourly rate, increases will follow the cost of living increase at a minimum. And if the agency pays all or some of the healthcare costs of their staff, the annual increase is likely to be higher. Presuming we experience no great increase in inflation, it is advisable to budget at least a 6 to 8 percent annual increase in cost. As older adults tend to experience decreased energy levels and increase in dependency on supportive services, it is not uncommon for care needs; and therefore costs to increase over time as well.

In-home care is not the most affordable option for individuals who have random and infrequent care needs. Depending upon a person's budget and care plan, in-home care may be an affordable and wise option, or it may become viewed as a costly and expensive means of receiving care. Remember that senior housing and care services does not offer the same one-on-one care provided by in-home care. More personalized and diligent attention is available by arranging for in-home care.

You can anticipate at least annual increases, if not an increase every six months.

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