

Specific Concerns: 3 misconceptions of in-home care

1. It's an expensive type of care. Because this service is one-on-one care, it is not an inexpensive means of receiving care; however, if services are predictable and can be scheduled, in-home care may actually be a cost effective means of receiving care.

2. In-home care has to be arranged far in advance before an emergency occurs.

Not necessarily so. In-home care providers are accustomed to sending assessors immediately to determine what services are needed. In many cases, in-home care can be arranged the same day, and in some cases, within hours of initial contact. Certainly care can be arranged within a 24-hour period of time.

3. In-home care is a good alternative to a nursing home, assisted living or adult care home services.

This is true in some instances, based on the ability of the older adult to receive services at a specific and scheduled point in time. If a senior has needs that are unpredictable and random, in-home care may still be a good solution; however, increased staffing time is likely required to meet the specific needs. Determining the amount of socialization a person requires is also an important aspect of deciding whether in-home care is a viable, long-term option.

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