Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if my loved one needs assisted living?
If you are caring for, or worrying about a loved one, contact Caton Merchant House for a confidential assessment of your loved one’s needs.

Will my loved one need to go to a nursing home at some point?
Many residents are able to stay in assisted living forever. Unfortunately, some residents may develop needs that, by necessity (and in some cases, regulation) require them to go to a skilled level of care. When that happens, the Caton Merchant House staff will assist the resident and family in making the transition to the appropriate facility.

Does Medicare or Medicaid cover my loved one’s stay in assisted living?
Medicare does not pay for assisted living. Medicare covers hospitalization, physician charges and other medical expenses as well as some nursing home costs for a defined period of time. Medicaid eligibility is determined by the state, not the assisted living residence. Most assisted living is paid for privately.

Does Caton Merchant House have an onsite primary care practitioner (PCP)?
Yes. We offer Nurse Practitioner visits here at Caton Merchant House twice a month for routine and annual visits. We also offer in house podiatry and audiology. If you’d like, you can become an established patient and have your visits in house. If you want to stay with your current PCP, you are welcome to do so as well. You are able to see your medical practitioners either through personal transport, or through our transportation office. All visits to medical and dental appointments within a 15 mile radius of Caton Merchant House are no additional charge and can be scheduled through transportation.

How often do the rates increase? How much can rates increase?
At Caton Merchant House, we review our rates on an annual basis in the late Fall and price changes go into effect January 1st. If there is a rate increase, we notify our residents at least 30 days prior to the effective date. Many factors determine the percent increase, including increases in the cost of delivering care, insurance and other cost factors beyond our control.

Can Caton Merchant House accommodate special diets, such as low salt or carbohydrate controlled diets?
Yes. Caton Merchant House has a variety of diet choices that are both nutritious and delicious. A registered dietician is available to assess the needs of our residents and to ensure that physician diet orders are carried out properly.
Are there any activities for my loved one? What about religious observances?

At Caton Merchant House, we believe in helping our residents remain active and engaged. We provide a full, 7-day-a-week calendar of in-home and outside activities. We attempt to honor all faiths by paying special attention to holidays, as well as holding services within the residence for all to attend.

What are the visiting hours? Can I take my loved one away for a weekend?

There are no set hours for visiting. Guests are always welcome. Residents are encouraged to accompany families and friends on trips or outings, when possible. You can work with our nursing staff 2 days prior to departure to ensure your loved one has the medications and supplies needed for an enjoyable trip.

What if my loved one is forgetful about eating, self care or taking medication?

At Caton Merchant House, our job is to insure remarkable care for your loved one. As a part of our room and board rate, hands on care escorting Residents to meals and activities is always available. We also offer Medication Management service and assistance with Activities of Daily Living (bathing, dressing, toileting and incontinence care) in addition to our room and board rate.

If your question was not answered here, please contact us at 703-335-8400.