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Nonprofit rates Virginia's long-term care facilities

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The Richmond-based nonprofit Virginia Health Information offers extensive online information about health care, facilities and services throughout the state. Its ratings cover hospitals, physicians, patient satisfaction, medical specialties, long-term care and health insurance options.

In its updated report, "Long-Term Care: A Consumer's Guide," available online in a downloadable format, the organization has expanded its assessment of the 1,000 long-term care and nursing homes in the commonwealth to make it more useful to consumers.

Its information now includes four new sections, in addition to price and location, assessing long-term care: nursing facility quality, staffing, health and fire-safety inspections.

"Consumers want information on location, quality and cost," says Michael Lundberg, executive director. "Our long-term care guide and reports put this information in one convenient place."

The guide helps consumers learn the differences between the care offered by assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, nursing facilities, home health services and adult day care. It offers comparisons according to location, price and quality. It also offers guidance in finding help from state and federal programs, and local and national nonprofits.

Virginia Health Information aims to be a one-stop shop for long-term care information for individuals, their caretakers and social workers.

Visit <http://www.vhi.org> for the guide.

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