

### **The Woodlands Home Care Costs Are Affordable**

There are many misconceptions about home care. At FirstLight HomeCare of The Woodlands, we want to dispel these myths, so you can make an informed decision about the best housing and care situation for yourself or your loved ones. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of seniors is expected to double in the next 25 years. As our population continues to age, senior housing situations will become critical.

According to the 2014 Medicare Handbook, 70% of people over 65 will need long term care services and support during their lifetime. Coupled with the fact that 90% of seniors want to stay in their own homes and “age in place,” in home care can be a perfect solution.

### **In Home Care Is Not Expensive**

The beauty of in home care is that it is the most flexible of all senior housing options since it is an hourly service. It is also the most affordable and has seen the smallest annual rate increases. You can choose as many or as few hours of personal care as you want, depending on your loved one’s needs. According to a 2013 study by [Genworth entitled “Cost of Care,”](#) the following represents the long term care services across the country and their rate of increase.

Type of Care	2013 National Median Rate	% Increase over 2012	% Increase Since 2008
Home Care	\$19/hour	1.39%	1%
Assisted Living	\$3,450/month- \$115/hour	4.55%	4.26%
Nursing Homes (Private)	\$230/day	3.60%	4.45%
Nursing Homes (Semi-Private)	\$207/day	3.30%	4.22%

As you can see, home care costs have remained pretty flat over the years. In 2008, in home care cost approximately \$18/hour, increasing to only \$19/hour five years later. However, the cost of a private room in a nursing home jumped 3.6 in the past year to an annual total of \$77,745, while the cost of Assisted Living Facilities increased 4.55% percent to \$39,135 annually.

### **All Home Care Agencies Are Not Equal**

We have all heard the horror stories about caregivers or even family members who take advantage of the elderly. This may be true for independent caregivers, but not so for those hired by FirstLight HomeCare. As a reputable home care agency, FirstLight HomeCare of The Woodlands conducts a thorough examination of all our caregivers, including a national background check and drug test. Since our caregivers are our direct employees (not independent contractors), we pay their salaries, taxes, workmen’s compensation and liability coverage. Further, FirstLight HomeCare The Woodlands is fully insured.

Additionally, we require our caregivers to undergo our Culture of Care training program and participate in continuing education so they are best able to meet client needs. They are well versed in privacy issues and will always respect the integrity, independence, and privacy of their clients.

Additionally, we have a unique program called ClientFirst that helps us match just the right caregiver to your loved one; based on their interests and habits. Whether long term or simply for a few days, if you have our caregivers come to your home, we will quickly become like a member of the family; celebrating birthdays, stories, memories and more.

If you are considering home care, call FirstLight HomeCare of The Woodlands first. We are passionate about maintaining our clients' independence and providing their families with peace of mind. You'll quickly discover for yourself why, we have received many awards and accolades for our quality of our care. Let our family help your family.