

Long-Term Care Quiz

Here are 10 statements about long-term care. Please respond with an "x" for "true," "false" or "don't know" to the best of your ability. Once you are finished, check your responses with the answer key to the right.

	TRUE	FALSE	DONT KNOW
1. Disability insurance and long-term care (LTC) insurance cover the same things.			
2. The average lifetime chance of needing long-term care for an individual 65 years or older is more than 40%.			
3. People have to spend all or almost all of their assets to get Medicaid benefits.			
4. Medicare is not the primary funding source for most seniors' long-term care costs.			
5. Most long-term care is provided in a nursing home.			
6. Medicaid covers long-term care services received at home.			
7. Nursing home expenses for Alzheimer's Disease patients are covered by Medicare.			
8. The average length of stay in a nursing home is more than four years.			
9. Nearly 40% of the long-term care population is under the age of 65.			
10. On average, a one-year stay in a nursing home costs about \$30,000.			

LTC Quiz Answers

<p>1. Disability insurance and LTC insurance cover the same things. FALSE. Disability insurance provides you with income if you become sick or injured and are unable to work. It is not designed to cover LTC expenses.¹</p>
<p>2. The average lifetime chance of needing long-term care for an individual 65 years or older is more than 40%. TRUE. It is estimated that approximately 70% of people over age 65 will require long-term care services at some point in their lives.²</p>
<p>3. People have to spend all or almost all of their assets to get Medicaid benefits. TRUE. While the maximum level of assets you're allowed to keep varies from state to state, people are required to spend down assets to a significantly low level before they can qualify for Medicaid benefits.³ In some states, policyholders may receive additional asset protection if they have a Partnership-qualified policy.</p>
<p>4. Medicare is not the primary funding source for most seniors' long-term care costs. TRUE. Medicare spending accounted for 20% of total long-term care expenditures in 2007. While it primarily covers acute care, it pays for limited stays in post-acute skilled nursing care facilities and home health care.⁴</p>
<p>5. Most long-term care is provided in a nursing home. FALSE. Most LTC is not provided in nursing homes. 80% of older adults who receive LTC do so in their own homes or community settings.⁵</p>
<p>6. Medicaid covers long-term care services received at home. FALSE. Medicaid primarily covers long-term care services in nursing homes. In states where Medicaid does cover home-based long-term care services, it is done so on a limited basis.⁶</p>
<p>7. Nursing home expenses for Alzheimer's Disease patients are covered by Medicare. FALSE. Medicare provides few benefits for the LTC services required by most people with Alzheimer's Disease. Full reimbursement for skilled nursing home care is limited to 100 days per benefit period, after which time the patient must contribute to the costs. Also, Medicare pays nothing if the patient requires only custodial care.⁷</p>
<p>8. The average length of stay in a nursing home is more than four years. FALSE. The average length of stay in a nursing home is 2.4 years.⁸</p>
<p>9. Nearly 40% of the long-term care population is under the age of 65. TRUE. 41% of people receiving LTC are between the ages of 18 and 64.⁹</p>
<p>10. On average, a one-year stay in a nursing home costs about \$30,000. FALSE. On a national average, a one-year stay in a nursing home costs about \$86,000.¹⁰</p>

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- H. Komisar and L. Thompson, National Spending for Long-Term Care (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Long-Term Care Financing Project, February 2007, Fact Sheet).
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- Georgetown University Long-Term Care Financing Project, "Long-Term Care Financing Policy Options for the Future" June 2007.
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