

Evergreen Health explains the need for an initial and review DQ98 assessment

Why do we do the DQ?

Residential retirement facilities resort under the Department of Social Development in terms of governance in South Africa. The Department of Social Development (DSD) is mandated in terms of the Older Persons Act, 13 of 2006 to register and monitor the implementation of minimum norms and standards.

To this end, minimum standards are developed to which both public, non-governmental and private sector facilities have to comply. Annual audits are conducted by DSD at facilities.

Evergreen Lifestyle Village (ELV) and Evergreen Health (EH) management are involved in these audit processes and have to be compliant with DSD regulations.

One such requirement, is the so called DQ98 assessment, developed for DSD in 1998. The completion of the DQ98 is prescribed in the Norms and Standards of the Older Persons Act, No. 13 of 2006.

Aligned to this, is the stipulation within the life right agreement that the Life Right Holder needs to complete a medical questionnaire, the results of which must be acceptable after assessment to the Operator in its sole discretion.

What do we do at the DQ?

The assessment entails obtaining the recent medical certificate, as provided by ELV, from a medical doctor, and being interviewed by Evergreen Health for so called medical clearance.

Once the completed medical certificate has been sent, the Evergreen Health professional contacts the prospective resident to schedule a face-to-face interview. The process is seldom longer than one hour. The assessment integrates the information from the medical certificate, with information gained about the functionality and mental health care or other support needs of the individual. There are criteria for independent living and any support or assistance required is documented, discussed and planned accordingly.

Who does the DQ?

A professional person at the prospective place of residence has to be conduct this assessment before residents move in. In most cases the person conducting the interview is a registered professional nurse. Interviews are also done by a registered social worker or an occupational therapist.

When do we do the DQ?

The DQ98 has to be concluded before occupancy of the home, apartment or care centre. Furthermore, DQ98'S have to be reviewed annually as per DSD regulations. Life Right Holders consent to medical assessments being conducted by registered healthcare practitioners appointed by ELV, as and when deemed necessary- which is annually or more frequently should there be any concerns regarding health, wellness and self-care.

The process flow is thus: **Medical certificate** → **DQ98 interview** → **Medical clearance** → **Handover** → **Occupancy** → **Annual DQ98 assessment reviews**

We appreciate the co-operation of residents in terms of their availability prior to occupancy in an Evergreen Lifestyle Village, for an initial interview and thereafter annually for review assessments by the Evergreen Health team members. This enables Evergreen Health to meet standards of accountability and ethical professional practice.

Dr. Guin Lourens
Nursing Services Manager
Evergreen Health (PTY) Ltd

