

- He is ~~often~~ incontinent,
- He does not recognize how or when to use the toilet,
- He must have all medication administered,
- He cannot dress himself,
- He cannot find his room without help.

Cran is very happy at Avenir. He is loved by the residents and staff. We (his daughter and I) do not want to move him. He is surrounded by his personal belongings, that I was asked to bring to his room, so that he could feel as comfortable as possible. In his career he was a Captain in the US Navy, he wrote speeches for the US Senate and collected first addition books. So, even though he can no longer read or write, he has them with him as he always. This gives him a sense of the wonderful life he has led. There are photos from his younger days, because as with most dementia patients there is often a remembrance of long ago. Photos give them comfort.

This diagnosis presents itself as progressive. Each person's experience of frontotemporal dementia is different, but on average people live for six to eight years after symptoms begin. Cran was diagnosed in 2013. He has shown marked deterioration noted by me and the staff at Avenir over the last years. He will need constant 24-hour care for the remainder of his life.

At Avenir safety checks are performed on a regular basis. Regular schedules are maintained so the residents have the least amount of stress possible. Dementia patients are proven to do better with structured routines. This is a secure building so he cannot accidentally leave, but is free to walk anywhere within the building, including the courtyard.

There are many opportunities for entertainment and activities. The staff are very caring to both him and his visitors. I am always greeted with a smile and an update of how Cran has been that day. The nurses and staff are always there and observant, which gives me peace of mind.

Cran spends all day out of his room and I have the knowledge that he is being cared for and aided in everything he needs. As an example, Avenir's staff is conscious that Cran cannot go to the bathroom by himself and often does not even recognize when he needs to, so they routinely check on this situation. He spends a great deal of time in the courtyard whenever the weather is nice, and the staff regularly takes him water to keep him hydrated as he would not be able to discern the need.

Avenir's staff is specially trained to recognize dementia specific behaviors, how to treat each patient where their disease has them, and how to communicate kindly and gently with the residents. There is a nurse on duty 24 hours a day.

I am enclosing a collaboration letter from Avenir. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (865) 755-2464 or by email at Chigvg@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

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