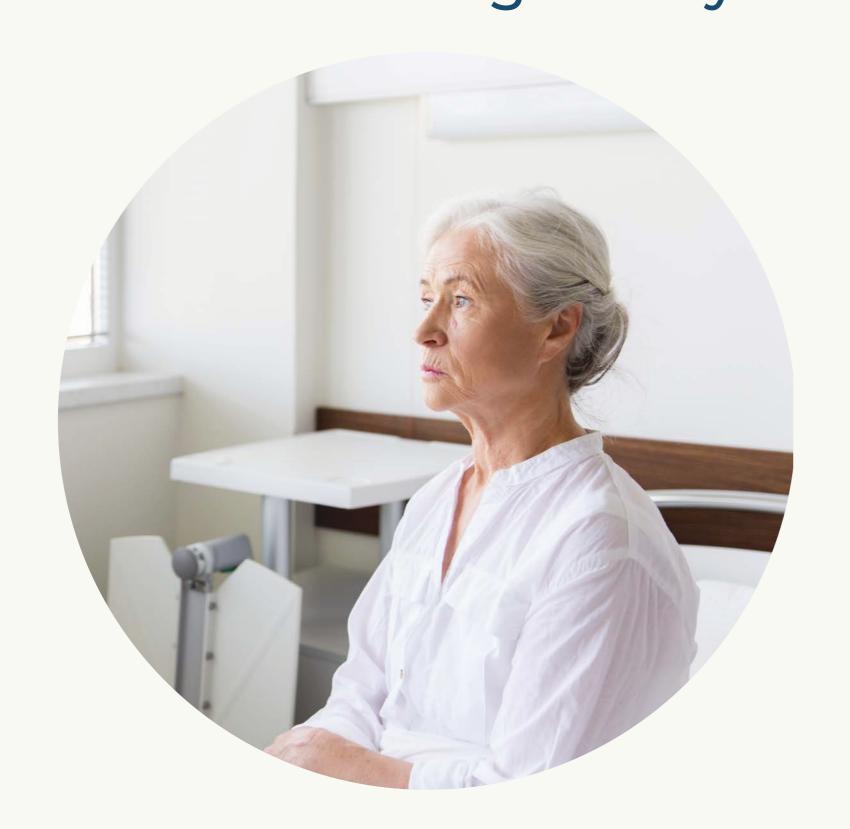# The Springs at Simpsonville's Guide to Understanding Senior Living Language

Do

Don't

As the nature of senior living communities has evolved in recent years, so has the language surrounding them. Some of the common terms used to describe senior living are outdated, and don't accurately reflect the contemporary nature of today's communities.

The Springs at Simpsonville has created this guide to help you better understand the language of senior living and how, by shifting your language, you can gain a better understanding of the care industry and the scope of options available.

❌ Instead of saying
"assisted living facility"

Say ✔
"assisted living community"

Using the word "facility" can bring to mind a clinical, sterile environment that focuses solely on medical care. However, today's senior living communities are lively neighborhoods full of friendships, activities and events, and personalized comforts. The word "community" more accurately describes this close-knit, home-like setting.
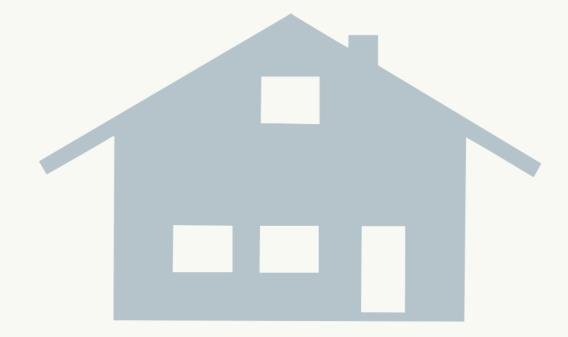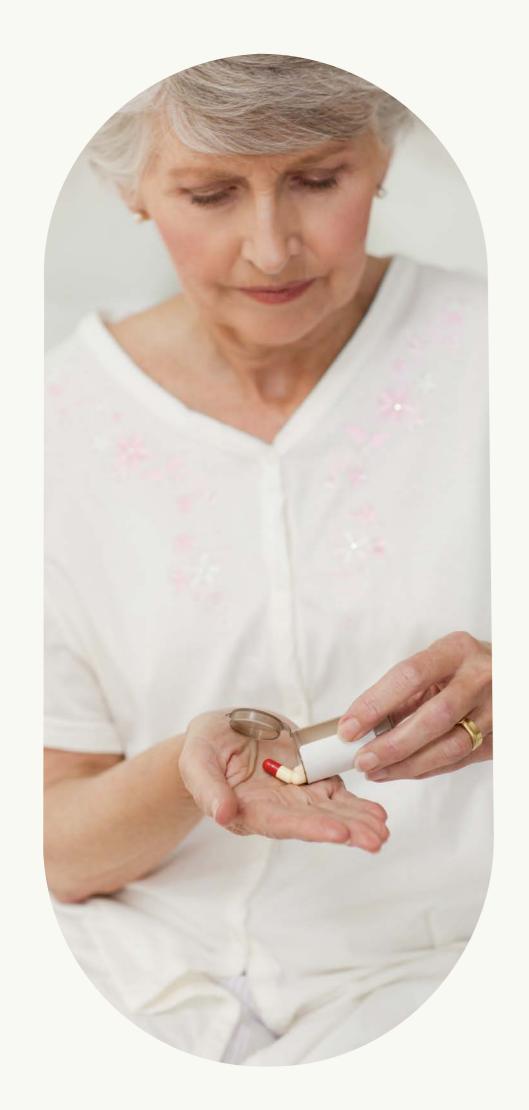
Instead of saying ✕

"patient"

While senior living communities do have the resources to manage health conditions, they are not hospitals, and those who live there are not "patients", as some may assume. In addition to health management, today's senior living communities offer services, amenities, and events to those who live there—treating them as true "residents" of the community.
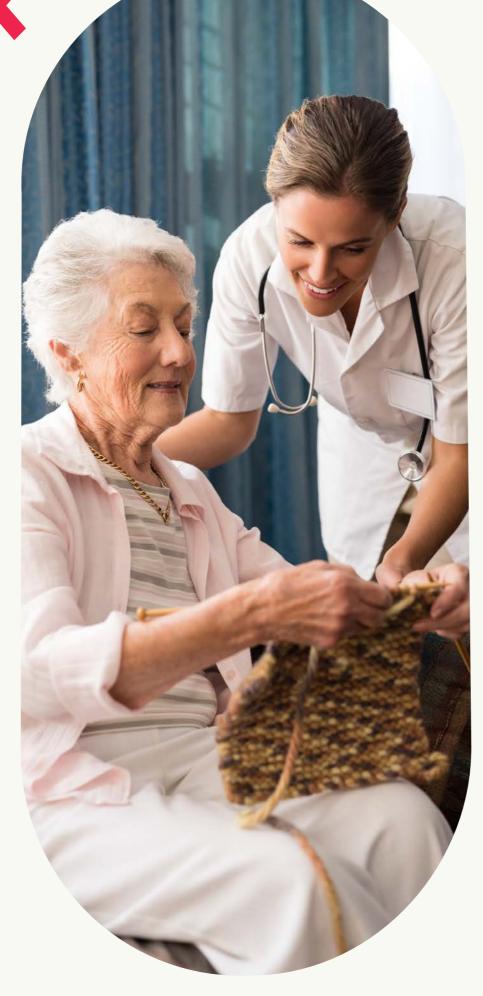
Say ✓

"resident"

Instead of saying ❌
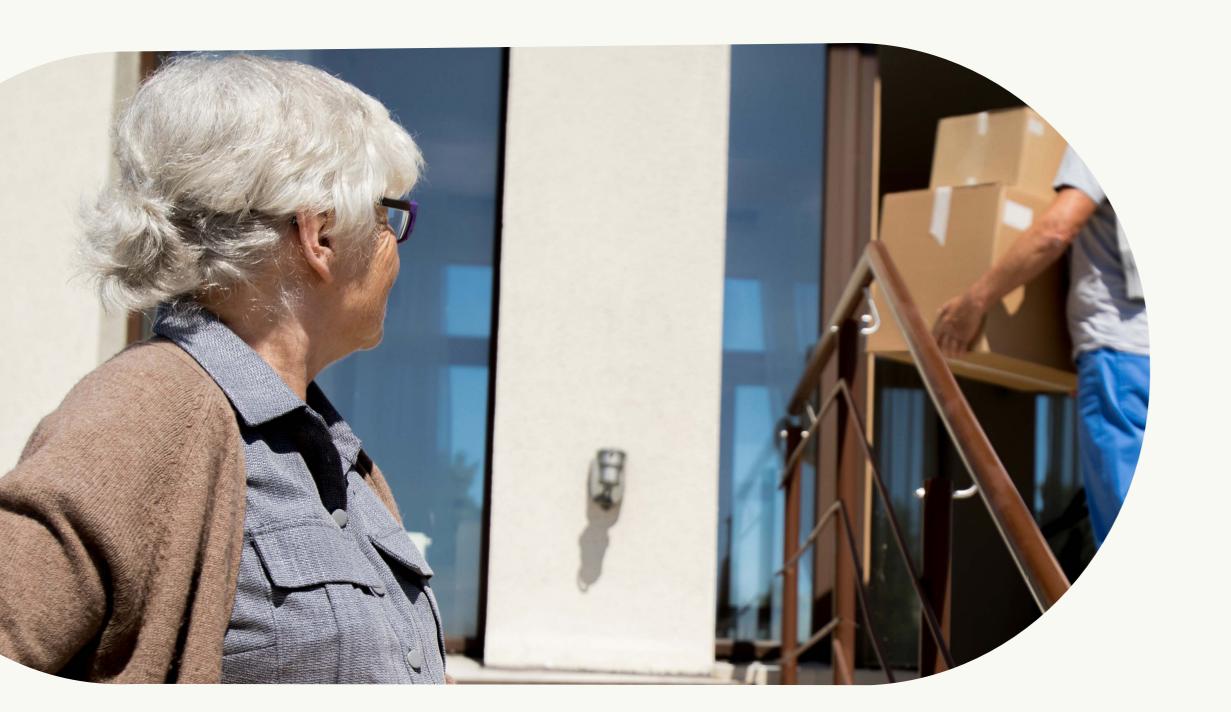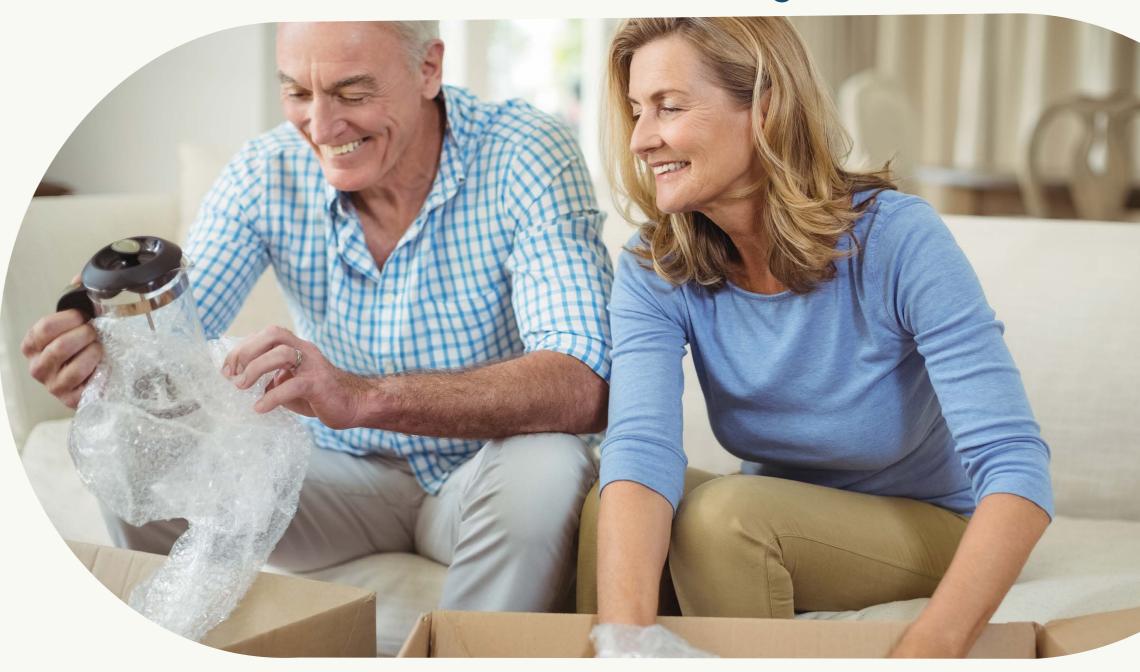
"suffering from"

Say ✔

"living with"

Saying that a person is "suffering from" a chronic illness may suggest that they let the disease define who they are. With a simple switch in language, saying "living with" a chronic illness focuses on the person and not their condition.

Instead of saying ✗
"put/place in a community"
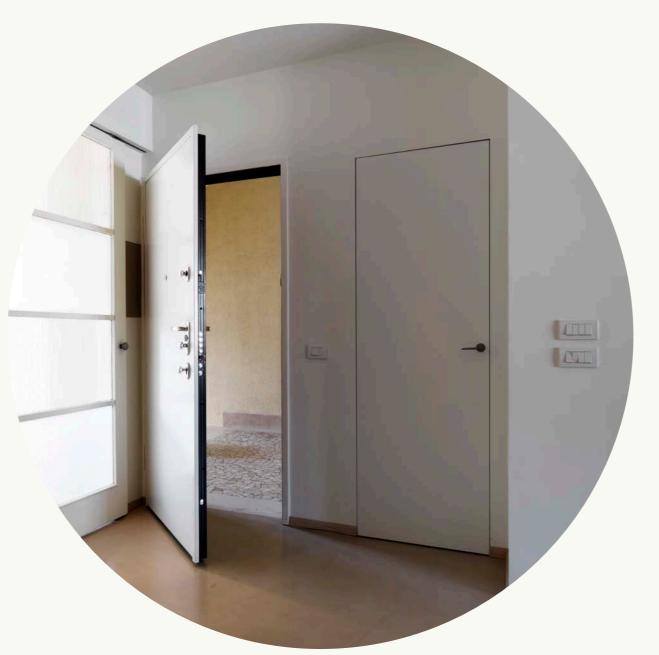

Say ✔
"move/transition to a community"

Using the phrase "put in" an assisted living community can have a negative implication. In today's climate, senior living communities are engaging and fun places to live, so much so that many older adults choose to live there on their own accord. Saying "moved" or "transitioned" to a community is more appropriate.
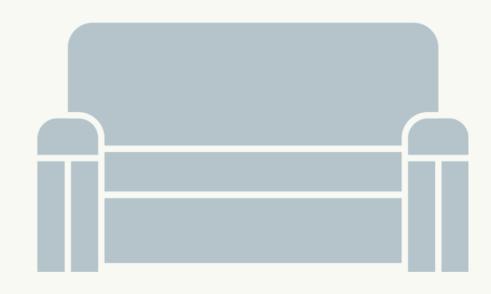
Instead of saying
"unit" ✗

Say ✓
"home or apartment"

Calling a room or apartment in a senior living community a "unit" can seem clinical and impersonal. Referring to these spaces as apartments, residences, or homes is a good reminder that, for residents of these communities, this is their home. These rooms are where they live, relax, and spend time with people they love.

Instead of saying ✗
"nursing home"

Say ✓
"senior living community"

When considering care options, many people may use or search the term "nursing home." A nursing home, or skilled nursing care, is specific to those who require care that can only be administered by a licensed nurse or medical professional. In reality, most people searching that term are looking for "senior living" options, which can offer services ranging from independent living to Alzheimer's and dementia care.