

National Carers' Week: 9 - 15 June 2008: a24 Direct

Submitted by: Rea-TMA Marketing

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National Carers' Week (www.carersweek.org) on 9 - 15 June highlights the 24-hour, 7-days a week responsibilities of carers who number almost six million in the UK and represent one in ten of the adult population.

A24 Direct (<http://www.a24direct.co.uk/>) is a UK agency that offers respite care, with private nursing and other personal support in the home for the disabled, the elderly or very young, or those recuperating from illness or a stay in hospital. A care assistant or qualified nurse will visit and provide home care, at any time of the day or night, with a minimum of four hours for each visit.

Penny Streeter, founder of A24 Direct (<http://www.a24direct.co.uk/>), offers the following advice for those seeking private nursing care at home:-

1. Initial Assessment: be sure to ask for your care needs to be assessed professionally by a qualified nurse in your own home. Any assessment should be carried out in liaison with your GP or other qualified healthcare practitioner. The cost for this at A24 Direct £121.26, and you will receive a 'Care Plan' confirming a detailed schedule of support. There should be no further obligation to purchase care.

2. Full 24-7 support, 365 days a year: the need for care can arise unexpectedly and you should ensure that care is available flexibly, in case of a relapse or continuing need, or the requirement for overnight care, for example. Round the clock phone support from the care agency is also essential, so that you can phone at any time with a query or concern.

3. Care assistant or qualified nurse: consider the type of care that is needed. A care assistant can help with personal and domestic care – from help with personal hygiene, through to cooking a meal or doing the shopping. A qualified nurse is more costly and may be necessary for more specialised care, such as for specific illnesses, to administer medication and monitor health.

4. CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) Enhanced Disclosure: check with the agency that all care staff have had full credentials checks, for your safety and peace of mind. A reputable agency will be able to offer you assurances in this area and show full documentation for CRB and the professional credentials of its care staff

Further information:

A24 Direct (<http://www.a24direct.co.uk/>), Ambition 24hours, Ambition House, 92 - 96 Lind Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4P Tel: 0871 87 333 44

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