

*Twenty Major Red Flags in a Life Care Plan/Life Care Plan Critique**

Life Care Plans with:

- 1) no listing of documents reviewed
- 2) no resources provided to substantiate costs
- 3) total costs/cost tables with no narrative or explanation
- 4) costs that are calculated according to a nationwide average rather than by geographical region or zip code
- 5) costs that are outdated or not related to the disability
- 6) no rationale or current provider support for recommended goods and services
- 7) no collaboration with the injured individual, family, treatment providers and/or experts
- 8) large allowances with no details or breakdown of cost recommendations, such as for surgeries or prosthetics
- 9) treatments, home care or therapies that appear excessive in terms of frequency and/or duration
- 10) inappropriate level or extent of home or facility care
- 11) no evidence of recommendations to promote functional independence
- 12) recommendations for goods and services which are NOT case-specific, are not available in the geographical locale and/or appear unreasonable in terms of number, frequency and cost
- 13) services that are duplicative, such as costs for 365 days of nursing care when the child receives nursing care at school 7 hours/day 210 days per year
- 14) separate charges for items and services already included in the per diem facility rate, if facility care is needed
- 15) facility providers that CANNOT offer the specific care needed, if facility care is recommended
- 16) lack of support for future hospitalizations, if acute care costs are included
- 17) inclusion of costs for complications and/or procedures when there is less than a 50% probability of occurring
- 18) goods, medications and services for pre-existing conditions without providing medical foundation for an exacerbation of the pre-existing condition
- 19) no apparent methodology in plan development
- 20) no comparison of differences or rationale for different recommendations in a Life Care Plan Critique

*The above major red flags are triggers for concern regarding the quality of a Life Care Plan.

They describe many of the characteristics of what a Life Care Plan may be missing.