
CHAPTER 35: PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

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SERVICES

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organization is able to coordinate the entire array of services to older adults with chronic care needs while allowing elders to maintain independence in the home and/or community for as long as possible.

Service Definitions

The PACE service package must include all Medicare and Medicaid covered services, in addition to other services determined necessary by the PACE interdisciplinary team (IDT) to improve and maintain the recipients overall health status. As specified in 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 460.98(c) services must include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Primary care services, including physician and nursing services;
- Social work services;
- Restorative therapies, including physical therapy, occupational therapy;
- Personal care and supportive services; and
- Nutrition counseling.

Service Limitations

The PACE organization becomes the sole service provider for Medicaid recipients who enroll in a PACE organization. PACE recipients must use the PACE organization's physician and provider network for all health services.

PACE provides an IDT, consisting of professional and paraprofessional staff, employed or contracted, to comprehensively assess each individual to determine necessary services and to case manage care and services provided to PACE recipients. The frequency of a recipient's attendance at the PACE center is determined by the IDT, based on the needs and preferences of each recipient.

In accordance with 42 CFR 460.96, the services that are excluded from coverage under the PACE program are as follows:

- Any service that is not authorized by the IDT, even if it is listed as a required service, unless it is an emergency service as specified in 42 CFR 460.100;

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- Inpatient facility services for private room and private duty nursing services, (unless medically necessary) and non-medical items for personal convenience such as telephone, radio or television rental, (unless specifically authorized by the IDT as part of the recipient's Plan of Care);
- Cosmetic surgery, which does not include surgery that is required for improved functioning of a malformed part of the body resulting from an accidental injury or for reconstruction following a mastectomy;
- Experimental medical, surgical, or other health procedures; and
- Services furnished outside of the United States except as follows:
 - In accordance with CFR 424.122 and 424.124; and
 - As permitted under the State's approved Medicaid plan.

The PACE organization must inform potential recipients that they offer Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage. Recipients must be informed that if they are in a PACE program they cannot enroll in a separate Medicare prescription drug plan. Joining a separate Medicare drug plan will cause the potential PACE recipient to lose their PACE health and prescription drug benefits.

PACE program provides comprehensive care to recipients who need end-of-life care. If a recipient chooses to elect the hospice benefit from a certified hospice organization the recipient must voluntarily disenroll from the PACE program.

Service Delivery

The PACE program agreement must define its service area. This service area must be approved by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS). CMS and OAAS must approve any change in the designated service area as required by 42 CFR 460.32(a) (1). CMS, in consultation with OAAS, may exclude from the designation an area that is already covered under another PACE program agreement to avoid unnecessary duplication of services and avoid impairing the financial and service viability of an existing program (as specified in 42 CFR 460.22). The CMS and OAAS approved Louisiana PACE service areas are designated by parish or zip code.

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The PACE organization must establish and implement a written Plan of Care that meets the needs of each recipient in all care settings 24 hours a day, every day of the year as specified in 42 CFR 460.98. These services must be furnished in at least the PACE center, home, inpatient facilities, and other referral service settings that the recipient may need. This does not change an individual's PACE enrollment status or the capitation rate. The PACE organization shall be responsible for payment of the cost of the care in any setting.

A PACE recipient may need temporary or permanent placement in another health care setting and enter a nursing facility that has a contract with the PACE organization. The PACE organization must establish and implement a written Plan of Care to furnish care that meets the needs of the recipient in the nursing facility. There must be coordination of care between the PACE organization and the nursing facility, during the recipient's placement in the nursing facility.

The PACE organization must notify OAAS Nursing Facility Admission or its designee of the nursing facility placement. A Level I Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) is required before a PACE recipient is transferred to a nursing facility. The PACE physician shall complete the Level I PASRR. It must be documented on the front page of the PASRR that a PACE recipient is entering the nursing facility. If the Level I PASRR indicates mental illness or developmental disability the case will be referred to the Level II authority, the Office of Behavioral Health or the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, for final determination. A Louisiana Level of Care Eligibility Tool (LOCET) is not required when a PACE recipient enters a nursing facility.