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

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BENEFICIARY REQUIREMENTS**Beneficiary Criteria**

As required by 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 460.150, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible to enroll, and to continue enrollment, in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE):

1. Be at least 55 years of age or older;
2. Reside in the approved PACE provider service area (designated by parish or zip code);
3. Meet nursing facility level of care requirements as determined under the Louisiana State Medicaid plan and Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 50:II., § 10154 and §10156; and
4. Be able to live in the community with PACE supports without jeopardizing his or her health or safety.

In addition, a potential PACE enrollee may be, but is not required to be, entitled to Medicare Part A, enrolled under Medicare Part B, or eligible for Medicaid.

The PACE organization must conduct a comprehensive health and safety assessment at the time of enrollment to ensure that the applicant's health, safety, or welfare will not be jeopardized by living in the community. The assessment must include:

1. An on-site evaluation visit(s) of the applicant's place of residence;
2. An evaluation of whether the applicant can be safely transported to the PACE center;
3. If the applicant is able to live alone safely, whether there is a primary caregiver at home, or willingness to use another caregiver or provider to meet the individual's needs;
4. Whether hygiene, nutrition, medical care, and support systems are adequate;
5. If behavioral problems exist, whether the individual's behavior can be managed to prevent risk to self or others; and

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6. Whether a plan of care (POC) can be developed to meet the individual's needs.

Medical Necessity

Louisiana, under the Medicaid State Plan, establishes nursing facility level of care (NFLOC) criteria to determine if an individual meets medical necessity for PACE. Louisiana utilizes scientifically-validated and reliability-tested screening and assessment tools upon initial application and at program eligibility redetermination periods. To enroll in PACE, applicants must meet and continue to meet NFLOC.

Applicants are initially screened for NFLOC by calling an Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) designated toll-free number. The screening tool used is the Louisiana Level of Care Eligibility Tool (LOCET). The LOCET is a telephone screening process to determine whether an individual "presumptively" meets NFLOC. Also during the telephone call, applicants are informed of other available program options to ensure freedom of choice.

Following an approved LOCET, the PACE applicant must receive a face-to-face assessment to determine NFLOC criteria prior to PACE enrollment. The face-to-face assessment is the interRAI Home Care (interRAI HC) assessment and supersedes the LOCET screening. OAAS certified assessors, either through OAAS or through certified PACE staff members, conduct the interRAI HC.

If the individual does not meet NFLOC through the interRAI HC assessment, the PACE organization must notify the OAAS regional office, which shall make the final determination regarding the applicant's medical necessity.

Exceptions:

A LOCET is not required if the PACE applicant has an approved LOCET that was performed within the previous 30 calendar days. If the PACE applicant does not have a LOCET in the OAAS database, the applicant or their personal representative must complete a new LOCET to determine if the applicant meets NFLOC criteria.