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

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RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS**Recipient 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 in a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program:

- Must be at least 55 years of age or older;
- Live in the approved geographic area of the PACE organization (designated by parish or zip code);
- Meet the requirement for Medicaid financial eligibility;
- Meet nursing facility level of care requirements; and
- At the time of enrollment the recipient must be able to reside safely in a community setting with PACE support.

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:

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

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Medical Necessity

To enroll in a PACE program potential recipients must be determined to need the nursing facility level of care as required under the Medicaid State plan for coverage of nursing facility services as specified in 42 CFR 460.152(a) (3). The Louisiana Level of Care Eligibility Tool (LOCET) is the pre-enrollment screening tool used to determine if the applicant meets nursing facility level of care. Applicants applying for PACE services are screened for nursing facility level of care by use of the LOCET that is completed over the telephone by Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) or its designee. The LOCET is completed by calling the toll-free telephone number maintained by the OAAS designated contracted agency. At the time of the LOCET screening individuals are informed of other available program options to assure freedom of choice.

A LOCET is not required if the PACE applicant has an approved LOCET in the OAAS system data base that was performed within the previous 12 months. If the PACE applicant has no such LOCET in the OAAS system data base, the OAAS designated contracted agency must conduct a telephone LOCET in order to determine if the applicant meets nursing facility level of care criteria.

In addition to the LOCET screening determination, every PACE applicant must receive a face-to-face Minimum Data Set-Home Care (MDS-HC) assessment prior to enrollment to verify that the applicant continues to meet the required nursing facility level of care criteria for enrollment in PACE. The PACE staff must schedule an initial face-to-face MDS-HC assessment prior to enrollment. The MDS-HC assessment shall be completed only by OAAS MDS-HC trained and certified PACE staff. The face-to-face MDS-HC determination will override the telephone LOCET screening determination.

If the initial MDS-HC does not meet nursing facility level of care the PACE organization must notify the OAAS Regional Office who shall make the final determination regarding the applicant's medical and functional eligibility.