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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 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 (NFLOC) 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 their 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 provider 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 following are issues to consider when making this determination:

1. Applicant does not have the capability to call for emergency assistance, or does not have the capability to determine when emergency assistance is needed.
2. Physician, familiar with the applicant's health and social history, has documented a condition that requires 24-hour/7-days per week skilled care.
3. Applicant's residence:
 - a. Has been condemned;
 - b. Has been determined unsafe by for habitation by the PACE provider (detailed documentation of specifics required); or

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- c. Poses a threat to PACE staff due to:
 - i. Physical condition and integrity of dwelling;
 - ii. Evidence of abuse and/or neglect from other household members;
 - iii. Criminal activities or behavior;
 - iv. Illegal drug use;
 - v. Brandishing of weapons; or
 - vi. Dangerous pets/animals.
- 4. Applicant exhibits health concerns that involve dangerous behavior(s) which would pose a threat to the individual, other PACE beneficiaries, or PACE staff.
- 5. Applicant whose current medical treatment or regimen requires 24-hour supervision and whose care is more appropriately provided in an institutional setting (hospital or skilled nursing facility).

Medical Necessity

Louisiana, under the Medicaid State Plan, establishes 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 (iHC) assessment and supersedes the LOCET screening. OAAS certified assessors, either through OAAS or through certified PACE staff members, conduct the iHC.

If the individual does not meet NFLOC through the iHC assessment, the PACE provider must notify the OAAS Regional Office (RO), which shall make the final determination regarding the

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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.