

This pamphlet was prepared for you by the:

Armstrong County
Area Agency on Aging
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OPTIONS PRE-ADMISSION ASSESSMENT

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In Conclusion:

Whether or not you qualify for nursing home care, there may be services available to you in the community through the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging. There is a program called the PDA Aging Waiver Program, which allows Medical Assistance funds to be used to purchase in-home services as an alternative to placement.



Applying for Medical Assistance-Funding for Nursing Home Care...

Most persons who need nursing home care have insurance coverage, which may pay for some or all of the nursing home care that they need for a limited amount of time. If the need for nursing home care continues after insurance coverage is exhausted, the person must then utilize his assets to pay for his care. When assets have been spent and the need for nursing home placement continues, he will then want to apply for Medical Assistance (MA) funding to pay for his care.

*Anyone who wishes to apply for medical assistance funding, should begin the process about two months before any other sources of payment are exhausted.

In Penna., two government agencies work together to process applications for Medical Assistance in nursing homes. The local Area Agency on Aging first works with the applicant to determine medical appropriateness; next a determination of financial eligibility is made by the Dept. of Human Services (DHS).

To qualify for medical assistance coverage in a nursing home, an applicant must be determined to be both medically appropriate for a nursing home, and financially eligible.

NOTE: Additionally, Federal law requires that persons who are being NEWLY admitted to nursing homes, which accept medical assistance—whether or not MA will be paying for their care—be screened to identify certain conditions, such as serious mental illness, mental retardation, or other conditions which may have caused a developmental disability and which may require specialized services. Persons who are identified as having such a condition, must have a more detailed evaluation performed—PRIOR to admission to the facility—so that, if necessary, specialized services, etc. can be offered.

How is an application for MA initiated?

The applicant's doctor must complete a medical evaluation (MA51) form and submit it to the AAA, which covers the county where the applicant is located at the time he wishes to apply. The applicant should also, if possible, request that his physician complete a PASRR-ID form which can also be submitted to the AAA along with the MA51. Both of these forms are available

through the Agency on Aging or should be available through the nursing home of choice.

The applicant will also need to complete a PA600 form detailing his financial status. The PA600 is available through the nursing home or the DHS and should be submitted via the nursing home to the DHS.

What happens after an MA51 is submitted to the Area Agency on Aging?

The AAA will assure that the MA51 is fully completed and recently dated by the physician. As soon as possible an AAA assessor will schedule a visit to the applicant to collect information, cross-check data, and present it for RN review and, if necessary, physician review. Unless certain conditions are identified, the AAA will forward its level of care determination directly to the DHS and will mail a copy to the applicant or his representative.

When certain conditions are identified, other government offices called "program offices" issue level of care decisions. Ultimately, the DHS notifies the applicant of their financial determination.

What must an applicant's condition be in order to qualify medically for nursing home care?

To qualify medically for care in a nursing home, a consumer must have a need for regularly-provided health-related care in the context of a planned program of health care.

A face-to-face assessment is completed by an AAA assessor and reviewed by a registered nurse to determine medical appropriateness. Level of care decisions, are stringently monitored by the Department of Aging to assure that all determinations of "nursing home eligible" are supported.

Can applicants protect assets for a spouse who will remain at home?

The DHS can supply forms which may be beneficial in protecting the assets of a spouse who will be remaining in the community. The DHS can be contacted directly at (724)543-1651 for details, concerning "spousal impoverishment."

Is there any additional paperwork?

The nursing home chosen will also have its own application forms, etc. which will require completion.