



UNDERSTANDING PACE

Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

PACE programs coordinate and provide all needed preventive, primary, acute and long term care services so that older individuals can continue living in the community. PACE is an innovative model that enables individuals who are 55 years old or older and certified by their state to need nursing home care to live as independently as possible. Through PACE, today's fragmented health care financing and delivery system comes together to serve the unique needs of each individual in a way that makes sense to the frail elderly, their informal caregivers, health care providers and policy makers.

PACE Programs Offer High Quality Care and are Proven Cost Effective

- PACE utilizes interdisciplinary teams - including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, therapists, van drivers and aides - to exchange information and solve problems as the conditions and needs of each individual who decides to participate in PACE change - all with the objective of enabling participants to live longer in the community.
- PACE provides participants regular access to doctors and other primary care professions who know them and who specialize in caring for older people.
- PACE participants have improved health status and quality of life, lower mortality rates, increased choice in how time is spent, and greater confidence in dealing with life's problems, according to a recent Abt Associates study.
- The PACE financing model combines payments from Medicare and Medicaid or private pay sources into one flat-rate payment to provide the entire range of health care and services, including paying for hospital care, in response to individual needs.
- PACE utilizes transportation systems to enable participants to live as independently as possible in the community while having access to the supportive services, medical specialists, therapies and other medical care they need.

Characteristics of PACE Participants

- The average age of PACE participants is 76 years old. Seventy-five percent of participants are female.
- A recent study found that the top diagnoses among PACE participants are vascular disease, diabetes with chronic complications, congestive heart failure, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and major depressive, bipolar and paranoid disorders. Nearly 47% of PACE enrollees have dementia.
- While more than 90% of PACE participants live in the community, approximately 7% live in nursing homes for which the PACE program pays.



For additional information and assistance, visit the National PACE Association website at www.NPAonline.org or a technical assistance center to discuss options for constructing a business plan for PACE.