

Virginia pre-PACE

In 1996, Virginia developed a pre-PACE program in the Hampton Roads areas to provide services to frail older citizens. Sentara Senior Community Care (SSCC), Virginia's only pre-PACE program, has served more than 475 older citizens, providing them with needed services to keep them safe in their homes and communities. On October 31, 2007, Virginia ended its pre-PACE program.

Eligibility Requirements for PACE

In order to be eligible for PACE, an individual must be pre-screened by a pre-admission screening team – Hospital, Department of Social Services, Department of Health – using the Virginia Uniform Assessment Instrument (UAI). (See link to Pre-Admission Screening). Individuals must also: (1) be 55 years of age or older; (2) reside in the PACE organization service area; (3) meet any additional program eligibility conditions required under the PACE program agreement; (4) at the time of enrollment, an individual's health, safety and welfare must be assured in the community.

Individuals who have Medicaid and Medicare or who have only Medicaid or Medicare are eligible to enroll in PACE. PACE also accepts private-pay individuals.

PACE Services

Federal and state regulations require all PACE programs to provide a comprehensive range of services that include the following:

1. All Medicaid covered services, as required in the State's approved Medicaid State Plan.
2. Primary medical and specialty care; which includes Anesthesiology, audiology, cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, gastroenterology, gynecology, internal medicine, nephrology, oncology, ophthalmology, oral surgery, orthopedic surgery, otorhinolaryngology, pharmacy consulting services, podiatry, psychiatry, pulmonary disease, radiology, rheumatology, general surgery, thoracic and vascular surgery and urology.
3. Nursing
4. Social Work
5. Personal care
6. In-home supportive services
7. Restorative therapies—Occupational, Physical and Speech-language-pathology
8. Meals and nutritional care
9. Transportation
10. Recreational therapy

11. Hospitalization-Acute inpatient care
12. Nursing facility care
13. Prescription Drugs – medications
14. Laboratory tests, X-rays and other diagnostic procedures
15. Prosthetics, orthotics, durable medical equipment, corrective vision devices, such as eyeglasses and lenses, hearing aids, dentures, and repair and maintenance items

PACE Interdisciplinary Team

All PACE organizations utilize the professional expertise of an interdisciplinary team (IDT) to provide case management on all services provided to and arranged by the PACE program for each enrolled PACE participant. As required in both federal and state regulations, the PACE organization's IDT is comprised of the following members who have a minimum of one year's experience working with the frail elderly population:

Primary Care Physician
Registered Nurse
Nurse Practitioner (Optional)
Masters Level Social Worker
Physical Therapist
Occupational Therapist
Dietitian
Recreational Therapist or Activity Coordinator
Home Care Coordinator
Personal Care Attendant
PACE Site Manager
Transportation - Van Driver

Payments for Services

PACE is a capitated benefit program that provides a comprehensive service delivery system and features integrated Medicare and Medicaid financing. The program was developed to address the needs of long-term care recipients, providers and payers.

Location of Services

PACE provides covered services to participants in the designated service area approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the State Administering Agency (SAA) – Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). Services are provided at the PACE center, at the PACE participant's home and the PACE organization arranges, manages and pays for all care referred to community providers, including hospital services, nursing facility care, emergency room services, physician visits and ancillary services.

PACE in Virginia

The Commonwealth of Virginia will develop seven PACE programs in the following areas: Virginia Beach, Hampton, Richmond City, Lynchburg, Big Stone Gap, Cedar Bluff and Northern Virginia. All PACE programs will be operational by 2009.

Sentara Senior Community Care (SSCC), Virginia Beach, Virginia

On November 1, 2007, Virginia celebrated the opening of its first PACE program. SSCC will provide PACE services to frail older citizens residing in the Hampton Roads area.

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) will also be expanding services in the Hampton Roads areas. On June 24, 2008, the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), Division of Long-Term Care (LTC), approved the application submitted by Sentara Life Care Corporation to develop a PACE in the Cities of Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Norfolk and Suffolk. The second PACE site, which is being identified as Western Hampton Roads, is targeted to open in late 2009.

Riverside at the Peninsula, Hampton, Virginia

On February 1, 2008, Virginia opened its second PACE program in Hampton, Virginia. Riverside at the Peninsula will provide services to frail older citizens living in areas of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and the southeastern portion of York County.

Mountain Empire PACE, Big Stone Gap, Virginia

On March 1, 2008, Virginia opened its third PACE program in Big Stone Gap, Virginia. Mountain Empire PACE will be Virginia's first rural PACE program and will provide services to frail older adults living in far southwest Virginia—in the counties of Lee, Norton, Wise and Scott.

AllCare for Seniors PACE – Appalachian, Cedar Bluff, Virginia

On May 1, 2008, Virginia's fourth PACE program and second rural PACE program, opened in Cedar Bluff, Virginia. AllCare for Seniors PACE will provide services to individuals residing in Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickerson and Russell counties.

Riverside PACE – Richmond, Richmond, Virginia

On February 1, 2009, Virginia opened its fifth PACE program in Richmond, Virginia. Riverside PACE will provide services to elderly citizens living in Richmond City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Powhatan, New Kent, Hanover, portions of Petersburg and Henrico County.

Centra Health PACE, Lynchburg, Virginia

On February 1, 2009, Virginia opened its sixth PACE program in Lynchburg, Virginia. Centra PACE will provide services to frail older citizens living in Bedford, Campbell, Lynchburg, Nelson, Appomattox and Amherst counties.