



PREPARING FOR THE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT- ARIZONA

When applying for Medicaid Long Term Care benefits it is important to take necessary time to address the medical eligibility criteria. The Medicaid program is meant for individuals needing “nursing home level of care” - this does not mean that the individual must reside in a nursing home but rather that they need the daily hands-on care as if they would need if in that higher level of care. The documentation of the daily hands-on care is crucial to the approval of the case. In Arizona, to be eligible, the applicant must score over 60 points on the assessment (called the Pre-Admission Screen – PAS) and show that the hands-on care is related to a medical diagnosis not psychiatric. Paying close attention to the applicants diagnosed issues, showing documentation of daily care needs, and having an advocate through the process are important steps in the approval process.

Areas of actual Medical PAS- points given for each section based on level of care needed
ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING SECTION
Mobility
Transfer
Bathing
Dressing
Grooming
Eating
Toileting
CONTINENCE SECTION
Bowel
Bladder
SENSORY SECTION
Vision
ORIENTATION SECTION
Place
Time
EMOTIONAL OR COGNITIVE BEHAVIOR SECTION
Aggression - Frequency
Aggression – Intervention
Self-Injurious – Frequency
Self-Injurious – Intervention
Wandering – Frequency
Wandering – Intervention
Resistiveness – Frequency
Resistiveness – Intervention
Disruptive – Frequency
Disruptive - Intervention
MEDICAL CONDITIONS
Paralysis
Alzheimer’s, OBS, or Dementia
SERVICES AND TREATMENTS
Oxygen

TIPS:

Proper Documentation is vital to the success of the medical assessment and APPROVAL of the application.

- Important to have someone with the resident during the PAS.
- This assessment can be done in person or virtually depending upon situation.
- Majority of points are given to Activity of Daily Living assistance – how much hands-on/ care is required. For example, how much weight-bearing assistance does the person need to dress, bathe, transfer, shower, etc.
- Document what is being done for the applicant, NOT what they are doing for themselves.
- Documentation clearly explains the applicant’s worst day and what their needs are during this time
- Is there a **medical** diagnosis listed as the primary diagnosis?
- Is there documentation from medical professionals demonstrating the need for long term care services and need for nursing home level care?
- Prepare the direct caregivers in understanding the PAS and why answering the questions correctly and with purpose is important.
- Assessment is based not only on interview but on actual supporting documentation from staff, caregivers, or physicians.
- Illustrate RISK of nursing home level of care if additional services were not being provided.