

# Washington State Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

## Long-term Services and Supports Presumptive Eligibility



### Background

Over the last few years Home and Community Services (HCS) has made great strides in improving timeliness of assessments and communication with hospitals, and we have continued work to streamline access to community based long-term services and supports (LTSS). Recently, in partnership with Health Care Authority, CMS granted HCS authority to test a presumptive eligibility process for Medicaid clients needing LTSS. This work was also supported by legislative direction to seek presumptive eligibility for LTSS for patients in acute hospitals. **Presumptive eligibility allows people to access LTSS without having to wait for the full functional and financial Medicaid eligibility determinations** as typically required under federal rules.

Due to the need to assist hospitals in transitioning clients who are ready for discharge more quickly we are starting first with individuals who are hospitalized and are returning/returned to an in-home setting. HCS is working to implement this new process effective 12/4/2023. Future phases will include individuals seeking to transition to residential settings.

### What is Long-term Services and Supports Presumptive Eligibility (LTSS PE)?

LTSS PE is a program in Washington State's 1115 Medicaid waiver that allows the state to waive certain Medicaid requirements, like the need to complete full functional and financial eligibility processes for Medicaid LTSS prior to being able to seek a qualified provider and authorize services. LTSS PE provides individuals an opportunity to access some home and community-based services as well as Medicaid (Apple Health) medical and behavioral health benefits more quickly while full functional and financial eligibility are being determined for LTSS.

### Who can receive LTSS PE?

Individuals who meet the following eligibility criteria may receive LTSS PE services:

- a. Live in their **own home\*** or the home of a friend or relative; and
  - ii. Will be discharging from an acute care hospital or a community psychiatric hospital; or
  - iii. Have discharged from an acute care hospital or community psychiatric hospital in the last 30 days; and
- d. Are medically and psychiatrically stable for community-based level of care; and
- e. Are not receiving any other Medicaid funded long-term services and supports; and
- f. Participate in the PE screening process with Home and Community Services (HCS) staff who will determine PE eligibility.

\*Per WAC 388-106-0010, own home means your present or intended place of residence:

1. In a building that you rent and the rental is not contingent upon the purchase of personal care services as defined in this section;
2. In a building that you own;
3. In a relative's established residence; or
4. In the home of another where rent is not charged and residence is not contingent upon the purchase of personal care services as defined in this section.

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### Why is LTSS PE Important to Individuals and Hospitals?

- Access to Apple Health may help individuals to obtain necessary follow-up with physical or behavioral health care providers post discharge;
- Facilitates quicker provider search and access to long-term services and supports;
- Hospitals may be able to discharge individuals more quickly.

### What Does the Acute Care Hospital or Community Psychiatric Hospital Staff Need to do?

When hospital staff identify an individual who is ready for discharge and needs Apple Health and Long-term Services and Supports from HCS, they should:

- Submit the [HCS Intake and Referral \(10-570\)](#) form
- For those who are under age 65 years, submit the completed [19-0054 Hospital Certification of Potentially Disabling Condition](#) form with the HCS Intake and Referral form; and
- Assist the individual to complete and submit a financial application using one of the following methods:
  - i. Paper: 18-005 application with the [Acute Care Hospital cover sheet](#); or
  - ii. Online: [Washington Connection](#). The client/hospital representative should indicate the name of the hospital on the address line, and state that the client currently resides in a hospital in the additional comments section of the application.

### What services may an individual receive through PE?

Based on an individualized PE screening and care plan, a client may receive the following services while waiting for a full functional and financial determination (if necessary) to be processed:

- Personal care services
- Home delivered meals
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Specialized medical equipment and supplies
- Assistive/adaptive technology and equipment
- Community transition services such as housing security deposits, utility set up fees, minor home accessibility modifications.

### Who can hospitals contact with questions about LTSS PE?

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