

Certification of Need for Care

Prior to a patient being admitted to a facility or transferred between facilities, the patient's attending physician will evaluate the need for Nursing Facility placement by assessing social and medical information. This also includes the physician completing and signing the DMA-6. The DMA-6 verifies certification by the physician that the applicant is determined eligible for Nursing Facility Level of Care. When certification of Level of Care is assigned it is valid for sixty (60) days. Certifications and attestations for the Level of Care are performed according to Federal timeliness requirements.

Review Medical Evaluation and Admission

Before admission to an institution for the mentally retarded or related conditions, Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR), an interdisciplinary team of health professionals makes a comprehensive medical and social evaluation and a psychological evaluation of each applicant's/recipient's need for care in the ICFMR.

Evaluations made before admission include:

- Diagnoses.
- Current medical, social and developmental findings.
- Mental/ physical functional capacity.
- Prognoses.
- Services needed.
- Recommendation of admission to or continued ICFMR care.

Plan of Care

A physician must legalize a written plan of care, the active treatment services, by personally signing the plan for each applicant or recipient before admission to an ICFMR. Medical and social information is required to be submitted on the Plan of Care which contains the following elements:

- Identification of the recipient.
- Name of the recipient's physician.
- Date of admission.
- Dates of application for and authorization of Medicaid benefits if application is made after admission.
- Diagnoses, symptoms, complaints, and complications indicating the need for admission.
- Description of the functional level of the individual.

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Plan of Care: Nursing Facilities (Continued)

- Objectives.
- Orders for medications, treatments, restorative and rehabilitative services, activities, therapies, social services, diet, and special procedures designed to meet the objectives of the plan of care.
- Plans for continuing care, including review and modification of the plan of care.
- Plans for discharge.

The team must review and follow through each plan as required by 42CFR483.440.

Explanation of Alternative Services

Before admission to a ICFMR, if the physician recommends services for an applicant or recipient whose needs could be met by alternative services that are currently unavailable, the facility must enter this fact in the recipient's record and begin to look for alternative services.

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