

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State/Territory: Georgia

CATEGORICAL DETERMINATION

The State mental health or mental retardation authority makes determinations as to whether nursing facility level of services and specialized services are needed, based on an evaluation of data concerning the individual (42 CFR 483.130). The State mental health or mental retardation authority may make determinations either through an advance group (categorical) determination or an individualized determination. A categorical determination may be made in the circumstances listed below, when sufficient and current patient information is available to clearly indicate that admission to, or residence in, a NF is needed or that the provision of specialized services is not needed. An individualized determination is performed in all other circumstances in which a Level II evaluation is needed.

Categories that the State mental health or mental retardation authority will utilize to determine that nursing facility services are needed:

1. Convalescent care from an acute physical illness which requires hospitalization and does not meet all the criteria for an exempt hospital discharge (which is not subject to preadmission screening);
2. Terminal illness, as defined for hospice purposes in 42 CFR Sec. 418.3 and Section 483.106(b)(2);
3. Severe physical illnesses such as coma, ventilator dependence, functioning at the brain stem level, or diagnoses such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and congestive heart failure which result in a level of impairment so severe that the individual could not be expected to benefit from specialized services;
4. Provisional admissions pending further assessment in cases of delirium where an accurate diagnosis cannot be made until the delirium clears, not to exceed 7 days;
5. Provisional admissions pending further assessment in emergency situations requiring protective services, with placement in a nursing facility not to exceed 7 days; and
6. Very brief and finite stays of up to 7 days to provide respite to in-home caregivers to whom the individual with MI or MR is expected to return following the brief NF stay.

Categories that the State mental health or mental retardation authority will utilize to determine that specialized services are not needed:

1. When admission is for situations 4., 5., and 6. above.
2. When dementia exists in combination with mental retardation or a related condition.