

# Indiana's preadmission Screening (IPAS) Program

(IPAS-INFO 1/96)

Indiana's Nursing Facility preadmission Screening (IPAS) program can help you evaluate your situation and provide information on possible alternatives to admission to a nursing facility.

Indiana's PAS program started in 1983. Its primary purpose is to assure that, before an individual is placed in a nursing facility, alternatives (in-home and community services) have been explored.

The State Legislature was also concerned about rising Medicaid costs for nursing facility care and the increasing number of elderly people. The IPAS program monitors nursing facility admissions to insure that placements are appropriate. IPAS care managers help individuals stay at home by connecting them to services available in their communities. These services such as in-home care and respite care help individuals avoid or delay nursing facility placement. Nursing facility beds are then available for those who need them most.

## What Is Pre-Admission Screening (IPAS)?

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IPAS is a process consisting of an application, a comprehensive assessment of needs, a plan of care, and a finding or decision concerning the most appropriate placement for an individual.

The application will initiate an appointment with the care manager member of your IPAS team. Your doctor is also a member of your team. The care manager will meet with you and your family to discuss your medical problems, how much help you need with activities of daily living, and the kind of help you may receive in your home. Based on the assessment and knowledge of alternative services available in your area, the IPAS team recommends either nursing facility care or continued living at home. A professional team at the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning makes the final determination for an individual eligible for Medicaid.

## Do I Have To Participate in IPAS?

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By state law, **all** persons, regardless of income or resources, must participate in IPAS to be admitted to a nursing facility in Indiana. You may choose to agree or refuse to participate. However, if you refuse and are admitted to a nursing facility, you will incur a penalty of non-payment by Medicaid of per diem costs for up to one (1) year.

*It is the responsibility of every nursing facility in Indiana to inform each individual seeking admission that there is an IPAS program, what it is, and the penalty for non-participation.*

## How Do I Apply For IPAS?

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Application is usually made through the nursing facility to which you are seeking admission. It may also be made at the hospital in which you are a patient or at your local Area Agency on Aging.

The nursing facility must assure that the IPAS application is immediately sent to the IPAS agency. A nursing facility that admits an individual without following IPAS program requirements commits a class A infraction. Federal law also requires the nursing facility to provide answers to a series of questions called a level I screen. The answers to these questions

will indicate whether a specialized assessment (Level II) should be done to identify additional services you may need for a proper placement.

## How Long Does The IPAS Decision Take?

The time limit for the IPAS process varies according to the situation. It should be completed within the following time frames:

**At home:** As soon as possible, but no later than 25 days.

**In the nursing facility:** Within the time limits specified under the designee authorization for admission.

**Emergency/APS:** Within 25 days from the date of admission.

**Short-Term (30-Day):** If discharged within the 30-day limit, no assessment is completed. If longer stay is needed, complete assessment within an additional 25 days.

**Direct-from-Hospital:** Doctor's estimated recovery time (ERT) plus 25 days, not to exceed 120 days (Medicaid eligibles limited to 25 days)

When Level II assessment is needed, a determination should be made within 7-9 working days. When IPAS assessment is completed, you will receive the decision on a PAS Form 4B.

## Must I Enter A Nursing Facility if IPAS Finds That Placement Is Appropriate?

No. The IPAS finding that placement is appropriate means that you have needs which nursing facility care is designed to meet and that community support services to meet those needs were not available. You may always choose to use the services that have been identified and remain at home or in the community.

However, if you enter a nursing facility after an IPAS finding that placement is **not** appropriate, you will incur the penalty of non-payment of per diem by Medicaid for up to one year from the date of admission.

## What if The IPAS Screening is Not Completed On Time?

If everyone (including your doctor, the nursing facility and others as appropriate) cooperated promptly to provide necessary information, but the IPAS decision was not rendered in time, you may request a waiver of the IPAS penalty from the State. If the waiver is granted, you may enter the nursing facility without incurring the IPAS penalty. Contact your local IPAS agency for information and assistance.

*Note: If Medicaid per diem is needed, all other Medicaid eligibility requirements still apply.*

If you seek Medicaid for your nursing facility care, you will need to provide information to OMPP concerning your IPAS participation status.

## What If I Do Not Agree With The IPAS Finding?

You may appeal any decision if you do not agree. Directions on how to appeal are printed on the back of the IPAS determination form (PAS Form 4B), which you will receive.

Contact Your Local Area Agency On Aging (IPAS Agency) To Receive Assistance And Answer Any Questions.