



Just the Facts:

PASSPORT

What is PASSPORT?

PASSPORT refers to the Medicaid waiver program for older adults over the age of 60 who require long-term care. PASSPORT home care provides an alternative to nursing home care for low income older adults, because nine out of ten Ohioans want to continue living at home, even when they need long-term care. PASSPORT is a program provided through a special waiver that allows Medicaid long-term care funds to be used for community-based services. Older adults with adequate financial resources pay others to assist in their care needs, either in their home or in facilities such as assisted living or nursing homes. Medicare is the major payer for acute care, but pays very little for long-term care. Medicaid provides assistance for those who meet very strict income and health criteria. Seventy percent of Ohio's nursing home care is paid by Medicaid.

Why is PASSPORT a waiver program?

Prior to the existence of waivers, frail older adults needing long-term care typically entered nursing homes. Nursing home placement for eligible older adults is an entitlement through Medicaid. As the aging population grew, alternatives became available so older people could be cared for in other settings—one reason 15 percent of nursing home beds in Ohio are empty today. The PASSPORT waiver is one such alternative.

Why is this program called PASSPORT?

PASSPORT refers to an extensive system for seeking long-term care assistance. "PASS" stands for Pre-Admission Screening System, or the front door for information about long-term care choices. Through the "PASS" system, older adults are educated about the variety of long-term care options available. They are **screened** by telephone to determine care needs, and if applicable, preliminary Medicaid eligibility. Older adults who do not appear to be Medicaid eligible are referred to community resources. The PASSPORT system also reviews nursing home admissions, even those entering as private pay, to see if other, less restrictive, options may be appropriate. During Ohio's Fiscal Year (SFY) 2006, 69,678 older adults were screened. Older adults who appear to be financially eligible for Medicaid or who have extensive care needs receive an in-home **assessment**. In SFY 2006, 35,293 older adults were assessed by a registered nurse or licensed social worker to determine what assistance was needed, based on the consumer's financial and health situation. The "PORT" stands for Providing Options and Resources Today. In SFY 2006, 8,850 of the older adults assessed were enrolled into the home care portion of PASSPORT. When an older adult is determined to be eligible for PASSPORT home care, a package of services is arranged through local service providers. A case manager monitors for quality and appropriateness of care and changes the care plan as necessary.

What services are provided in PASSPORT home care?

PASSPORT provides needed community-based services. Seventy two percent of the service costs are for personal care. Other services include meals, adult day health, homemaker, emergency response and medical equipment to assist an older adult living at home. Just as in the nursing home, consumers are eligible for non-long-term care services paid by Medicaid such as prescription drugs and medical transportation.



Who qualifies for PASSPORT home care?

To be eligible, the consumer must be over the age of 60 and must meet the same eligibility requirements as Medicaid consumers seeking nursing facility care. That is, the older adult must have an income less than 300% of SSI (about \$1,800 per month for one) and assets of no more than \$1,500. In addition, the consumer must meet strict standard-of-care needs because of inability to dress, bathe, toilet, or prepare meals. Care plan costs may not exceed 60% of the cost of nursing home care.

What are the costs associated with PASSPORT home care?

The screening and assessment components ensure that older adults are directed to the care they need and scarce public long-term care resources are targeted appropriately. PASSPORT home care costs considerably less than nursing home care. The average Medicaid annual reimbursement for nursing home care is \$57,605 per consumer. For PASSPORT, the average annual cost is \$13,310 per consumer.

How long do consumers use PASSPORT?

The average length of stay is 32 months. About forty eight percent of PASSPORT consumers receive PASSPORT care until death and 28% eventually enter skilled nursing facilities, usually because of a change in their caregiver situation. Others move away or leave the program.

What role does PASSPORT play in the long-term care system?

PASSPORT is the front door to assist families facing long-term care decisions. PASSPORT homecare provides an option to older adults who prefer to stay at home. Home health care, technology, and medications have all advanced so that many more possibilities exist today than when nursing homes flourished. Information from Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, shows that PASSPORT allows an older adult to remain at home at 23% of the cost of nursing home care.

What is the role of the family in providing long-term care?

Families meet almost 80% of the long-term care needs of older adults. In the PASSPORT program, family members continue to have responsibilities that become an integral part of the care plan, with PASSPORT care providers supplying specific services, such as personal care. Not all PASSPORT consumers have family support. In these cases, more extensive home care is supplied by PASSPORT care providers.

Who do families contact if they are interested in options to nursing homes?

Families can contact their local Area Agency on Aging. Contact information for the Area Agencies is available at www.ohioaging.org.