GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES

Effective Date: December 1, 2010	Number of Attachments: 0
Responsible Office: DDS Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration	
Supersedes Policy: Most Integrated Community-Based Setting Policy (effective January 9, 2002)	
Title/Subject: **Nursing Facility Placement Policy**	
Cross-References: Human Rights Advisory Committee Procedure	

All underlined words/definitions can be found in the Definitions Appendix.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the standards and guidelines by which the Department on Disability Services ("DDS"), Developmental Disabilities Administration ("DDA"), will review and evaluate all referrals/placements to nursing facilities.

2. APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all individuals served by DDA employees, subcontractors, providers/vendors, consultants, volunteers, and governmental agencies that provide services and supports on behalf of individuals with disabilities receiving services as part of the DDA Service Delivery System funded by DDA or the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF).

3. AUTHORITY

The authority for this policy is established in the Department on Disability Services as set forth in D.C. Law 16-264, the "Department on Disability Services Establishment Act of 2006," effective March 14, 2007 (D.C. Official Code § 7-761.01 *et seq.);* and D.C. Law 2-137, the "Mentally Retarded Citizens Constitutional Rights and Dignity Act of 1978," effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1301.01 *et seq.).*

4. POLICY

It is the policy of DDS to ensure all individuals receiving services from the DDA service system have access to and receive quality supports, services, and health care in the most integrated, least restrictive community-based setting. Individuals who may be appropriate for a nursing facility setting will be evaluated via the PASRR (Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review) process and meet the minimum standards (see eligibility criteria below) per the Nursing Home Reform Act from the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 ("OBRA '87").

5. RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for this policy is vested in the Director, Department on Disability Services. Implementation for this policy is the responsibility of the Deputy Director, Developmental Disabilities Administration.

6. STANDARDS

The following are the standards by which DDS will evaluate compliance with this policy:

A. Pursuant to OBRA '87, DDA will perform the mandated *preadmission screening (PASRR Level II) to ensure that:

1. Individuals seeking admission to a nursing facility (NF) must meet the level of care provided in NFs;
2. Individuals' needs for specialized services are determined; and
3. Individuals obtain the services identified through the preadmission screening. The PASRR is the primary mechanism used to meet this requirement.

B. DDA Acceptable Uses for Nursing Facilities

1. The individual has a need for a time-limited stay following hospitalization, and his or her rehabilitation requires the availability of skilled nursing staff on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. The referral and placement must be directly related to a hospitalization discharge recommendation; OR
2. The individual has a need for medical supports that minimize deterioration in abilities and maximize quality of life and cannot be provided in the individual's current level of care, nor can it be met in a more intensive community based alternative, such as an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/ID); and facility and community-based interventions are currently unavailable to address the person's medical support needs.

C. The DDS Human Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) will review and offer recommendations relevant to every referral of an individual to a nursing facility.

D. DDA will notify Quality Trust of all individuals being referred to a nursing facility and the Court Monitoring Office when an *Evans* class member is being referred to a nursing facility (per the HRAC policy and procedures).

Laura L. Nuss

Laura L. Nuss, Director

11/30/2010

Approval Date

*Level I PASRRs are completed by the referring entities.