

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY SERVICES**



| <b>POLICY</b>   |  |
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| Department on Disability Services   | Subject: Nursing Facility Placement Policy |
| Responsible Program or Office:<br>Department on Disability Services   | Policy Number:<br>2014-DDA-POL006          |
| Date of Approval by the Director: January 8, 2015   | Number of Pages: 3                         |
| Effective Date: January 9, 2015   | Expiration Date, if Any: N/A               |
| Supersedes Policy (Dated): Most Integrated Community-Based Setting Policy (effective January 9, 2002); Updated to comply with People First Language policy. |  |
| Cross References, Related Policies and Procedures, and Related Documents: 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 persons served by DDA employees, subcontractors, providers/vendors, consultants, volunteers, and governmental agencies that provide services and supports on behalf of persons 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 (DDS) 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 "Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities 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 persons 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 (fPASRR Level II) to ensure that:
  - 1. Persons seeking admission to a nursing facility (NF) must meet the level of care provided in NFs;
  - 2. Persons needs for specialized services are determined; and
  - 3. Persons 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 person 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 person has a need for medical supports that minimize deterioration in abilities and maximize quality of life and cannot be provided in the person'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).

  
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Laura L. Nuss, Director

  
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Approval Date

\*Level I PASRRs are completed by the referring entities

