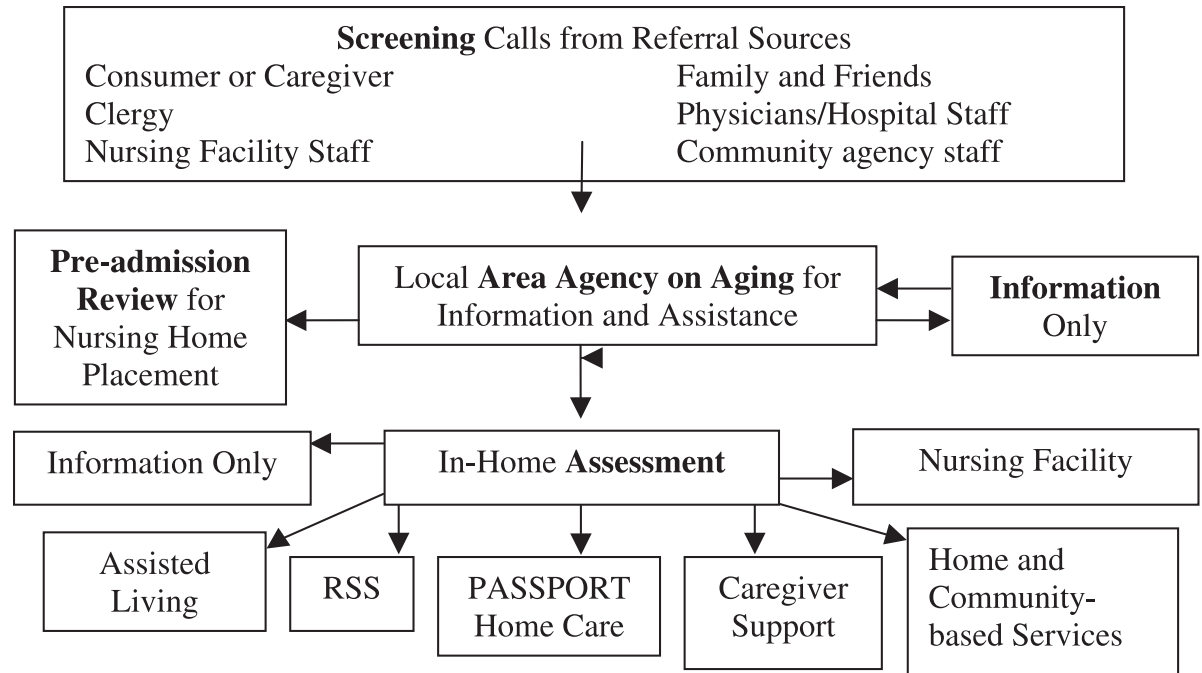




Just the Facts:

The PASSPORT Pre-Admission Screening System

An Overview of the "PASS" Process



What is PASSPORT?

PASSPORT refers to the Medicaid waiver program for older adults over the age of 60 who require long-term care. The PASSPORT system assists older adults and their families with long-term choices and enables eligible older adults to remain at home and in the community.

What is the Pre-Admission Screening System?

The Pre-Admission Screening System, or "PASS," is the front door for information about long-term care options. Older adults are screened by telephone to determine care needs, possible care choices, and preliminary Medicaid eligibility. In FY 2004, 73,730 older adults had telephone screenings. Older adults who appear to be financially eligible for Medicaid and/or have extensive care needs then receive an in-home assessment by a nurse or social worker. In FY 2004, 32,719 older adults were assessed. If the nurse or social worker determines that the older adult is eligible for long-term care services through PASSPORT, a care plan is developed in conjunction with the older adult and their family. Older adults who are not eligible are connected with other locally available resources.

What happens during the initial screening?

Individuals in the community and health care professionals call the local Area Agency on Aging to receive information and assistance with long-term care decisions and options. The Area Agencies on Aging use a consumer-focused approach that looks at the informal caregiving network available as well as the needs of the older adult. Trained professionals provide information on a variety of options and resources and, if appropriate, recommend a comprehensive assessment to further determine the needs of the older adult and to evaluate the existing support system in the home setting.



What is pre-admission review for nursing facility placement?

Pre-admission review informs nursing facility applicants of choices in long-term care service settings regardless of payment. Older adults are educated about long-term care options such as home and community-based services and assisted living. In addition to discussing alternatives to nursing facilities, Area Agency on Aging staff also review applicants to Medicaid-certified nursing facilities to ensure that the nursing facility is an appropriate placement for consumers with mental retardation or mental illness.

What happens during an in-home assessment?

The assessment enables a licensed social worker or registered nurse to thoroughly evaluate the needs of an older adult who, through the screening process, appears to have long-term care needs. The assessment enables older adults and caregivers to ask questions and review long-term care options with a trained professional. While some consumers only require the information given at the assessment, others are referred to appropriate resources.

What happens after the in-home assessment?

Depending upon the needs of the older adult and the eligibility criteria of specific programs, the older adult, their physician, friends, family, and Area Agency on Aging staff work to determine the best long-term care option available. Possible choices include:

- PASSPORT home care: With case management services provided by the local Area Agency on Aging, PASSPORT home care provides needed community-based services so older adults can remain in their homes and communities. PASSPORT home care services include personal care, meals, adult day health, homemaker, emergency response, and medical equipment to assist an older adult living at home.
- Residential State Supplement (RSS): RSS provides a monetary supplement to low-income aged, blind or disabled adults who do not require nursing facility care. This assistance, along with the consumer's income, pays for an alternative living arrangement such as an adult care facility or group home.
- Assisted living communities: Older adults with some financial resources who require some assistance with the activities of daily living, but do not need nursing facility care, may choose assisted living.
- Caregiver support: Informal caregivers who provide extensive support to older adults may be eligible for caregiver support respite services. Respite care, such as home care assistance, adult day health, overnight care, and caregiver education, can provide caregivers with the break they need to continue their caregiving.
- Other home and community-based programs: Low income older adults who do not meet Medicaid eligibility for long-term care may receive limited home and community-based services, including meals on wheels, senior vans, and homemakers for the homebound. Many of these programs provide only limited services and more than one third have waiting lists.
- Nursing facilities: Older adults who desire an institutionalized placement and greater assistance than the care available at home or in an assisted living facility or who cannot afford to privately pay for an assisted living facility may decide to enter a nursing facility. Long-term care in a nursing facility can be funded privately or, if the older adult is eligible, through Medicaid.

Who do families contact if they are interested in learning more about the PASSPORT Pre-Admission Screening System?

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