Member Call
July 11, 2019 • 3:00pm – 4:00pm
(267) 930–4000; participant code 759-479-640

AGENDA

1. Welcome

2. State budget and legislative update (15 minutes)

3. PACE rate setting update (5 minutes)

4. CalPACE 2019 policy priorities (10 minutes)
   - Transfer of licensing functions
   - Rate methodology budget trailer bill language

5. DHCS and CMS guidance and initiatives (15 minutes)
   - DHCS PACE application process
   - Level of care review
   - PACE contract changes
   - PACE audit process

5. Upcoming meetings and events (5 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.22.2019</td>
<td>Monthly Member Call</td>
<td>Phone (267) 930-4000</td>
<td>3:00pm-4:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.28.2019</td>
<td>Member Meeting</td>
<td>California Endowment, 1414 K Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
<td>11:30am-3:00pm</td>
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<td>08.28.2019</td>
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<td>08.28.2019</td>
<td>Member Dinner</td>
<td>TBA - Sacramento</td>
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<td>08.29.2019</td>
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<td>08.29.2019</td>
<td>Affiliate Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 1209 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814</td>
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6. Other business

7. Adjourn

Attachments
A. AB 1128 – Transfer of PACE licensing functions
B. PACE rate methodology budget trailer bill language
C. PACE Policy Letter 19-01
An act to add Sections 1221.18, 1575.5, and 1734.6 to the Health and Safety Code, and to amend Section 14592 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to the elderly.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 1128, as amended, Petrie-Norris. Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

Existing federal law establishes the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), which provides specified services for older individuals at a PACE center, defined, in part, as a facility that includes a primary care clinic, so that they may continue living in the community. Federal law authorizes states to implement the PACE program as a Medicaid state option.

Existing state law establishes the California Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE program), to provide community-based, risk-based, and capitated long-term care services as optional services under the state’s Medi-Cal State Plan, as specified. Existing law
authorizes the State Department of Health Care Services to enter into
contracts with various entities for the purpose of implementing the
PACE program and fully implementing the single state agency
responsibilities assumed by the department pursuant to those contracts,
as specified.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health and
sets forth its powers and duties, including, but not limited to, duties
relating to the licensing and regulation of various entities, including
primary care clinics, adult day health centers, and home health agencies.

This bill would require a PACE center to maintain a license as both
a primary care clinic and an adult day health center, and to either
maintain a license as a home health agency or contract with a licensed
home health agency for the provision of home health services. The bill
would require the State Department of Health Care Services, as the
single state agency overseeing the PACE program, to license and
regulate any primary care clinic, adult day health center, and home
health agency that is related to a PACE center, thereby transferring
these duties from the State Department of Public Health to the State
Department of Health Care Services, using revenues from the licensing
fees that would have been attributed to the corresponding duties of the
State Department of Public Health. The bill would authorize the State
Department of Health Care Services to exempt certain PACE centers
from these provisions. The bill would authorize the State
Department of Health Care Services to implement the transfer of these duties by
means of plan or county letters, or other similar instructions, without
taking regulatory action.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
following:
(a) The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
is a national model of comprehensive care for California’s frail
population 55 years of age and older who qualify for nursing home
placement but wish to remain in the community.
(b) Research shows that PACE produces significant
improvements for the beneficiaries it serves, including fewer
hospitalizations, fewer nursing home admissions, higher quality
of life, and greater rates of satisfaction with overall care.

(c) The PACE model achieves savings for the State of
California. In 2017, the state paid $22,600,000 less than it would
have if all current PACE participants were served outside of PACE.
(d) Currently, there are 12 PACE programs operating in 42 sites
across California, serving almost over 8,000 seniors.
(e) PACE organizations are currently required to obtain licensing
approvals or exemptions to operate clinics, adult day health centers,
and, in some cases, home health agencies, from the State
Department of Public Health (DPH) in a lengthy process that is
separate from the extensive approval process administered by the
State Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).
(f) This bifurcated process can delay the rollout of new and
expanding PACE programs by months or even years.
(g) Startup of new PACE programs and certain expansions of
existing programs are further challenged by DHCS policy limiting
the start date of operations for a new or expanding PACE
organization application only to either January 1 or July 1 of a
given year following approval.
(h) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to shift
responsibility for PACE licensing from DPH to DHCS to remove
redundancy and duplication between the reviews by the two
departments, and expedite approval of new or expanding PACE
programs that will help more seniors access PACE while remaining
in their homes and communities.

SEC. 2. Section 1221.18 is added to the Health and Safety
Code, to read:
1221.18. Pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 14592 of the
Welfare and Institutions Code, no later than January 1, 2021, the
State Department of Health Care Services, as the single state
agency overseeing the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the
Elderly (PACE), as described in Chapter 8.75 (commencing with
Section 14591) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and
Institutions Code, shall license and regulate any primary care clinic
license that is related to a PACE center, as defined in Section 460.6
of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 3. Section 1575.5 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:
1 1575.5. Pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 14592 of the 2 Welfare and Institutions Code, no later than January 1, 2021, the 3 State Department of Health Care Services, as the single state 4 agency overseeing the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the 5 Elderly (PACE), as described in Chapter 8.75 (commencing with 6 Section 14591) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and 7 Institutions Code, shall license and regulate any adult day health 8 center license that is related to a PACE center, as defined in Section 9 460.6 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
10 SEC. 4. Section 1734.6 is added to the Health and Safety Code, 11 to read:
12 1734.6. Pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 14592 of the 13 Welfare and Institutions Code, no later than January 1, 2021, the 14 State Department of Health Care Services, as the single state 15 agency overseeing the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the 16 Elderly (PACE), as described in Chapter 8.75 (commencing with 17 Section 14591) of Part 3 of Division 9 of the Welfare and 18 Institutions Code, shall license and regulate any home health 19 agency license that is related to a PACE center, as defined in 20 Section 460.6 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
21 SEC. 5. Section 14592 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is 22 amended to read:
23 14592. (a) For purposes of this chapter, “PACE organization” 24 means an entity as defined in Section 460.6 of Title 42 of the Code 25 of Federal Regulations.
26 (b) The director shall establish the California Program of 27 All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE program) to provide 28 community-based, risk-based, and capitated long-term care services 29 as optional services under the state’s Medi-Cal State Plan and 30 under contracts entered into between the federal Centers for 31 Medicare and Medicaid Services, the department, and PACE 32 organizations, meeting the requirements of the Balanced Budget 33 Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33) and any other applicable law or 34 regulation.
35 (c) A PACE center, as defined in Section 460.6 of Title 42 of 36 the Code of Federal Regulations, shall maintain a license as both 37 a primary care clinic, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision 38 (b) of Section 1200 of the Health and Safety Code, and an adult 39 day health center, as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1570.7 40 of the Health and Safety Code. Additionally, a PACE center shall
elect to either maintain a license as a home health agency, as
defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1727 of the Health and Safety
Code, or contract with a licensed home health agency for the
provision of home health services.
(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other law, including Division 2
(commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety Code,
the department, as the single state agency overseeing the PACE
program, shall assume the duties of the State Department of Public
Health relating to the licensing and regulation of any primary care
clinic, as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section
1200 of the Health and Safety Code, adult day health center, as
defined in subdivision (b) of Section 1570.7 of the Health and
Safety Code, and home health agency, as defined in subdivision
(a) of Section 1727 of the Health and Safety Code, that is related
to a PACE center, as defined in Section 460.6 of Title 42 of the
Code of Federal Regulations.
(2) The transfer of these duties shall occur by a date collectively
determined by the department and the State Department of Public
Health, but no later than January 1, 2021.
(3) (A) Notwithstanding any other law, moneys authorized to
fund the duties of the State Department of Public Health relating
to the licensing and regulation of an entity described in paragraph
(1) that is related to a PACE center, including moneys collected
in accordance with Section 1266 of the Health and Safety Code
and deposited in the State Department of Public Health Licensing
and Certification Program Fund pursuant to Section 1266.9 of the
Health and Safety Code, shall be authorized to fund those same
duties upon their transfer to the department pursuant to this
subdivision.
(B) It is the intent of the Legislature that the duties of the
department as described in paragraph (1) not be funded by an
appropriation from the General Fund.
(e) Consistent with Sections 1231.5, 1580.1, and 1734.5 of the
Health and Safety Code, and in accordance with Section 100315
of the Health and Safety Code, the department may exempt a PACE
center from subdivisions (c) and (d).
(f) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section
11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
the department may implement subdivisions (c) through (e) by
means of plan or county letters, information notices, plan or
provider bulletins, or other similar instructions, without taking regulatory action.
SEC. 9.
Section 14301.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is amended to read:

14301.1. (a) For rates established on or after August 1, 2007, the department shall pay capitation rates to health plans participating in the Medi-Cal managed care program using actuarial methods and may establish health-plan- and county-specific rates. Notwithstanding any other law, this section shall apply to any managed care organization, licensed under the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 (Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code), that has contracted with the department as a primary care case management plan pursuant to Article 2.9 (commencing with Section 14088) of Chapter 7 to provide services to beneficiaries who are HIV positive or who have been diagnosed with AIDS for rates established on or after July 1, 2012. The department shall utilize a county- and model-specific rate methodology to develop Medi-Cal managed care capitation rates for contracts entered into between the department and any entity pursuant to Article 2.7 (commencing with Section 14087.3), Article 2.8 (commencing with Section 14087.5), and Article 2.91 (commencing with Section 14089) of Chapter 7 that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(1) Health-plan-specific encounter and claims data.
(2) Supplemental utilization and cost data submitted by the health plans.
(3) Fee-for-service data for the underlying county of operation or other appropriate counties as deemed necessary by the department.
(4) Department of Managed Health Care financial statement data specific to Medi-Cal operations.
(5) Other demographic factors, such as age, gender, or diagnostic-based risk adjustments, as the department deems appropriate.

(b) To the extent that the department is unable to obtain sufficient actual plan data, it may substitute plan model, similar plan, or county-specific fee-for-service data.

(c) The department shall develop rates that include administrative costs, and may apply different administrative costs with respect to separate aid code groups.

(d) The department shall develop rates that shall include, but are not limited to, assumptions for underwriting, return on investment, risk, contingencies, changes in policy, and a detailed review of health plan financial statements to validate and reconcile costs for use in developing rates.

(e) The department may develop rates that pay plans based on performance incentives, including quality indicators, access to care, and data submission.

(f) The department may develop and adopt condition-specific payment rates for health conditions, including, but not limited to, childbirth delivery.

(g) (1) Prior to finalizing Medi-Cal managed care capitation rates, the department shall provide health plans with information on how the rates were developed, including rate sheets for that specific health plan, and provide the plans with the opportunity to provide additional supplemental information.

(2) For contracts entered into between the department and any entity pursuant to Article 2.8 (commencing with Section 14087.5) of Chapter 7, the department, by June 30 of each year, or, if the budget has not passed
by that date, no later than five working days after the budget is signed, shall provide preliminary rates for the upcoming fiscal year.

(h) For the purposes of developing capitation rates through implementation of this ratesetting methodology, Medi-Cal managed care health plans shall provide the department with financial and utilization data in a form and substance as deemed necessary by the department to establish rates. This data shall be considered proprietary and shall be exempt from disclosure as official information pursuant to subdivision (k) of Section 6254 of the Government Code as contained in the California Public Records Act (Division 7, Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

(i) Notwithstanding any other law, on and after the effective date of the act adding this subdivision, the department may apply this section to the capitation rates it pays under any managed care health plan contract.

(j) Notwithstanding Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, the department may set and implement managed care capitation rates, and interpret or make specific this section and any applicable federal waivers and state plan amendments by means of plan letters, plan or provider bulletins, or similar instructions, without taking regulatory action.

(k) The department shall report, upon request, to the fiscal and policy committees of the respective houses of the Legislature regarding implementation of this section.

(l) Prior to October 1, 2011, the risk-adjusted countywide capitation rate shall comprise no more than 20 percent of the total capitation rate paid to each Medi-Cal managed care plan.

(m) (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to preserve the policy goal to support and strengthen traditional safety net providers who treat high volumes of uninsured and Medi-Cal patients when Medi-Cal enrollees are defaulted into Medi-Cal managed care plans.

(2) As the department adds additional factors, such as managed care plan costs, to the Medi-Cal managed care plan default assignment algorithm, it shall consult with the Auto Assignment Performance Incentive Program stakeholder workgroup to develop cost factor disregards related to intergovernmental transfers and required wraparound payments that support safety net providers.

(n) (1) The department shall develop and pay capitation rates to entities contracted pursuant to Chapter 8.75 (commencing with Section 14591), using actuarial methods and in a manner consistent with this section, except as provided in this subdivision.

(2) (A) The department may develop capitation rates using a standardized rate methodology across managed care plan models for comparable populations. The specific rate methodology applied to PACE organizations shall address features of PACE that distinguishes it from other managed care plan models.

(B) The rate methodology shall be consistent with actuarial rate development principles and shall provide for all reasonable, appropriate, and attainable costs for each PACE organization within a region.

(3) The department may develop statewide rates and apply geographic adjustments, using available data sources deemed appropriate by the department. Consistent with actuarial methods, the primary source of data used to develop rates for each PACE organization shall be its Medi-Cal cost and utilization data or other data sources as deemed necessary by the department.

(4) Rates developed pursuant to this subdivision shall reflect the level of care associated with the specific populations served under the contract.

(5) The rate methodology developed pursuant to this subdivision shall contain a mechanism to account for the costs of high-cost drugs and treatments.
(6) Rates developed pursuant to this subdivision shall be actuarially certified prior to implementation.

(7) The department shall consult with those entities contracted pursuant to Chapter 8.75 (commencing with Section 14591) in developing a rate methodology according to this subdivision.

(8) Consistent with the requirements of federal law, the department shall calculate an upper payment limit for payments to PACE organizations. In calculating the upper payment limit, the department shall correct the applicable data as necessary and shall consider the risk of nursing home placement for the comparable population when estimating the level of care and risk of PACE participants.

(9) During the first three rate years in which the methodology developed pursuant to this subdivision is used by the department to set rates for entities contracted pursuant to Chapter 8.75 (commencing with Section 14591), the department shall pay the entity at a rate within the certified actuarially sound rate range developed with respect to that entity, to the extent consistent with federal requirements and subject to paragraph (11), as necessary to mitigate the impact to the entity during of the transition to the methodology developed pursuant to this subdivision.

(10) During the first two years in which a new PACE organization or existing PACE organization enters a previously unserved area, the department shall pay at a rate within the certified actuarially sound rate range developed with respect to that entity, to the extent consistent with federal requirements and subject to paragraph (11), to reflect the lower enrollment and higher operating costs associated with a new PACE organization relative to a PACE organization with higher enrollment and more experience providing managed care interventions to its beneficiaries.

(11) This subdivision shall be implemented only to the extent that any necessary federal approvals are obtained and federal financial participation is available.

(12) This subdivision shall apply for rates implemented no earlier than January 1, 2017.
Date: June 10, 2019

Policy Letter 19-01

Supersedes PACE Policy Letter 18-01

To: Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Organizations

Subject: Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly Application Process

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy Letter is to inform Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Organizations (PO’s) and potential applicant organizations of the Department of Health Care Services’ (DHCS) application review process and timeline for new PO applications and PO Expansion applications.

Background

In 2016, the California Legislature passed the PACE Modernization Act Trailer Bill (Sections 31-36 of SB 833, Chapter 30, Statutes of 2016) including updates to the payment and regulatory structure of PACE. The updated California PACE statutes, in part, removed the cap on the number of PO’s that could operate in the state, and allowed for-profit entities to become PO’s.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) releases annual updates to its PACE Application Guidance to address its electronic PACE application submission timelines, requirements, and review process. Applicants should review this guidance and be aware of CMS requirements for accessing the Health Plan Management System (HPMS). The downloadable PDF of the application and additional information can be found at: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/PACE/Overview.html.

State Application Review Process

All new and expansion PACE applications must go through an initial review process by DHCS in order to move forward with submission to CMS via HPMS. The initial submission components detailed in this letter aim to provide DHCS with key
organizational background and financial viability documentation. This information is necessary for DHCS to complete/sign the State Assurance pages and authorize the submission of the full application to DHCS and CMS via HPMS.

Upon submission of the full application to CMS, DHCS will align its review of the remaining application with the CMS clock cycle, dependent upon the type of application, to create a concurrent review process. Expansion only applications will be on two 45/90 day clock cycles. New PACE center applications will be on two 90 day clock cycles. The initial CMS 45/90-day clock review begins upon receipt of the completed full application in HPMS, which must include the signed State Assurance pages.

DHCS will review the application according to state and federal laws and regulations. Prior to entering into a contract for the provision of Medi-Cal managed health care services, DHCS may consider any factor it determines to be necessary for consideration (Welfare & Institutions Code (W&I Code) sections 4095 and 14592(b)). This includes considering any information relevant to the issue of whether the application could result in unnecessary duplication of services or impair the financial or service viability of an existing program (42 USCA § 1395eee(e)(2)(B)).

### Initial State Review

All new and expansion applications received by DHCS will follow the below initial state review timeframes for application submission:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Documents for Submission</th>
<th>Reviewer</th>
<th>Review Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Notification of Intent to DHCS | 30 days prior to Initial Application Submission to DHCS | - Letter of Intent  
- Letter for Support from COHS (if applicable)  
- Address of new PACE center (if available)  
- Estimated operational date (subject to DHCS approval) | DHCS | N/A |
| Initial Application Submission to DHCS | 60 days prior to CMS application submission deadline | - Market Feasibility Study  
- Letters of Support  
- Application sections (see Attachment III)  
- Address of PACE center | DHCS | 60 Calendar Days |
| Full Application Submission in HPMS | Align with CMS PACE Application Submission Deadline | - Remaining application sections  
- State Assurance Page | DHCS/CMS | Align with CMS 45/90 day review clock |
Concurrent Federal and State Review

The CMS review process of the PACE Application will include a series of attestations and uploads based on the type of application received (Initial Application or Service Area Expansion (SAE)). Please see Attachment I (PACE Application Required Attestations and Uploads).

During the initial CMS 45/90-day clock review of the full application, CMS and/or DHCS may issue a Request for Additional Information (RAI) to the applicant. In the event a RAI is issued, the application is taken off the review clock during this period while the applicant responds to either the CMS and/or DHCS RAI. DHCS will align its remaining review and RAI (if necessary) with CMS timelines and ensure that any necessary changes are communicated to CMS. It is also during this period that DHCS conducts the State Readiness Review (SRR) onsite survey of the applicant PACE center, as required. All initial applications and any SAE application that includes the addition of a new PACE center requires a SRR of the new center. All deficiencies that may be identified during the DHCS SRR onsite survey of the applicant PACE center must be addressed through a corrective action plan submitted to and accepted by DHCS.

Once CMS and/or DHCS have accepted the applicant’s RAI response, and the SRR onsite survey has been satisfactorily completed by DHCS, and the applicant and accepted by CMS, CMS will reinitiate the final 45/90-day clock review cycle. Conclusion of this cycle results in CMS notification to the applicant of final approval or denial.

PACE Growth and Expansion

All PACE growth and expansion falls into one of the below categories:

1. **New PACE Organization** – New entity applying to establish a PO
   * An entity must identify specific zip codes to be served in one or more counties.
   * An entity must be able to serve all requested zip codes from PACE center (subject to the 60-minute one-way travel time to and from the participants’ homes to the Adult Day Health Center (ADHC)).
   * Rate development is required for each county requested.

2. **Existing PO Expansion (Existing County)** – PO’s adding additional zip codes within existing county service area, opening a new PACE center within existing county service area, or both
   * An entity must be able to serve all requested zip codes from PACE center(s) (subject to the 60-minute one-way travel time to and from the participants’ homes to the ADHC requirement).
   * An entity must identify zip codes that overlap with any existing PO’s.
• PO’s can add zip codes and use Alternative Care Settings (ACS) and the Community-based physician waiver as an interim step before building new PACE center.
• DHCS and its actuaries must analyze requested expansion for potential rate impact. If a rate impact is identified (requiring new rate development), the request will be treated in accordance with program start dates outlined below. Zip code-only expansions are subject to a shorter CMS review period.

3. Existing PO Expansion (New County) – PO adding zip codes in a new county of operation

  • Usually requires a new PACE center unless the zip codes requested fall within the required radius to be served by existing PACE center and interdisciplinary team (IDT).
  • An entity must identify zip codes that overlap with any existing PO’s.
  • Rate development is required for each county requested.

Program Start Date

To align with DHCS budget and rate development processes, all new and existing PO expansion applications requiring new rate development may only be able to begin operations on either January 1, or July 1, of a given year in accordance with the timeline below.

CMS applications submitted in the quarterly windows from January through June of a given calendar year may begin operations no sooner than July 1 of the subsequent calendar year, pending final DHCS and CMS approval of the new PO or Existing PO Expansion application.

CMS applications submitted in the quarterly windows from July through December of a given calendar year may begin operations no sooner than January 1 of the calendar year that follows the subsequent calendar year (i.e. December 31, 2018, submission would be eligible for a January 1, 2020, start date), pending final DHCS and CMS approval of the new PO or SAE application.

Prospective PO’s and expansion applicants requiring new rate development should take the available start dates into consideration when preparing to submit an application. Any delays in the application submission or review process may result in the program start date getting pushed back to the next available program start date of either January 1 or July 1.

Applicants should also account for the time frame requirements of other public licensing entities when considering the overall application timeline process.
Initial Application Submission Components

Letter of Intent

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to DHCS indicating their plans to submit a PACE application. The LOI should identify the following:

- The applicant
- The proposed service area, including a listing of proposed zip codes and a service area map
- The address (if available) for the applicant’s PACE center and the anticipated operational date of the center (subject to DHCS approval) based on DHCS program start date guidelines above.

New applicants proposing to serve an area with an existing or pending PACE plan must identify the overlapping zip codes in their LOI. If an applicant has any questions about whether there is an existing or pending PO operating in its proposed service area it can refer to the DHCS PACE website for a listing of all zip codes by county that PO’s currently operate in at: http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/PACEPlans.aspx. Pending applications for new or expansion PO’s are also posted to the DHCS website.

CMS application submission deadlines can be found under the application training guide here: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/PACE/Overview.html. The LOI to DHCS must be submitted at least 90 days prior to the proposed CMS submission date, and the initial application must be submitted at least 60 days prior to the proposed CMS submission date. Applications submitted to DHCS after these dates are not guaranteed to be reviewed in time to meet the proposed CMS submission deadline.

Letters of Support

All PACE applicants must submit letters of support from local entities in the area that the applicant proposes to serve. These may include but are not limited to County Board of Supervisors, County Health and Human Services (HHS) Director, local hospitals, Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs), Independent Physician Associations (IPAs), Commission on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), local Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) Waiver sites, etc. Letters of support should be attached to the LOI.

Market Feasibility Study

All PACE applicants, including SAEs, must submit a market feasibility study of the area that they propose to serve. The feasibility study should include the following:

- Estimate of the number of PACE-eligible individuals
- Description of the methodology/assumptions used to determine potential membership
Identify all competitive factors impacting the market, such as:
- Existing PO’s
- Medi-Cal MCPs
- Demonstration County MCPs (Cal MediConnect and Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS))
- Medi-Cal Waiver Programs
- In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Identify projected market capture/saturation rates
Demonstrate that there is an unmet need for PACE in the proposed service area
- Please note that when multiple applications are received for the same county/zip code service area the order of submission and number of pre-existing plans may have an impact on the decision to approve/deny an application.

State Application Narrative

The following PACE application sections must be submitted to DHCS for initial review (see Attachment III): Please refer to DHCS website “PACE Orientation Package & Approved Templates” for resource and templates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New PACE Application</th>
<th>Service Area Expansion (Existing and New County)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1 – Service Area</td>
<td>3.1 – Service Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2 – Legal Entity and Organization Structure</td>
<td>3.2 – Transportation Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3 – Governing Body</td>
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<td>3.4 – Fiscal Soundness</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5 – Marketing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.13 – Contracted Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.23 – Transportation Services</td>
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In addition to the attestations and documents required in the PACE application, DHCS requires a detailed narrative in each of these sections to better understand the organizational background and financial standing of the applicant. Applicants should refer to the Attachments in this document as well as the documents on the DHCS PACE website under PACE Orientation Package & Approved Templates.

Additional Considerations and Limitations

Overlapping Service Area

New applicants proposing to enter an area already served by an existing PO must identify the overlapping zip codes in their LOI. DHCS will immediately notify any existing and/or pending PO’s of the new applicant’s intent, and the existing and/or pending
PO(s) will have an opportunity to submit their own market feasibility study in response. The counter-feasibility study must be submitted to DHCS by the initial application submission date. Overlapping service areas are determined at the zip code level. Therefore, if a PO is only servicing a portion of a county and a new or expansion application is requesting a zip code not in the PO's service area, by zip code, then the new or expansion application would not trigger notification to the existing/pending PO for an overlapping service area competing market feasibility study.

DHCS will conduct its own market feasibility study using Medi-Cal data to verify the market feasibility studies that applicants/PO's submit. DHCS will evaluate actual numbers of Medi-Cal beneficiaries by age and aid code and will use historical trends of clinical eligibility and market capture to compare against market analyses submitted by applicants/existing PO's.

Zip Code Overlap Review Tool

DHCS, in consultation with other State Administering Agencies, uses a review tool to assist in considering prospective PO applications and the overlapping service area they propose to enter. The review tool is included as Attachment II (Service Area Overlap Review Criteria) to this letter. Rather than using a certain formula or “threshold number” DHCS will consider all factors and available data and ultimately decide whether to move forward with signing the State Assurance page.

Restrictions on Delegation

DHCS is using this PACE Policy Letter to provide explicit clarification to its policy on the use of delegation in the PACE model. DHCS prohibits existing and applicant POs from delegating a separate entity to operate existing and/or additional (expansion) PACE centers and IDTs. POs are responsible for coordinating and delivering the medical and long term care of frail and vulnerable elderly Californians so that they can remain living safely in their community rather than receiving institutional care. Because of the complexity of this responsibility, DHCS has serious concerns with arrangements to delegate the administration of a PACE center or PACE IDT to third parties. DHCS intends to amend its PACE contracts to include this prohibition. The validity of the DHCS concerns regarding delegation in the PACE model are reflected in the Responses of CMS to Comments presented in the Federal Register, Volume 71, No. 236, pages 71247 to 71263, and 71270 to 71272, regarding Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 460.60, 460.70, and 460.71.

There is one existing delegated delivery model within PACE in California. The On Lok delegation contract with the Institute of Aging was originally established on August 1, 1996. This model was identified as a contractual arrangement in place on or before July 1, 2000, and was confirmed as “grandfathered” in by CMS in a January 15, 2002, letter. Grandfathering was necessary as the arrangement was not explicitly allowed under the PACE permanent provider regulations at that time.
While DHCS explicitly prohibits full delegation of the fundamental program elements of operation of the PACE center and IDT, POs have the ability to subcontract for any service(s), as determined necessary by the IDT, to ensure that all services necessary to maintain a participant in their home/community are accessible by the PO. POs may enter into subcontracting agreements using the PACE Subcontract Boilerplate template provided by DHCS. Any amendments to the boilerplate template require the Department’s prior written approval.

Please note that DHCS’ prohibition on the use of delegation in PACE does not impact POs option to utilize Alternative Care Settings (ACS). An ACS is any physical location in the POs approved service area other than the participant’s home, an inpatient facility, or PACE center. A PACE participant receives some (but not all) PACE center services at an ACS on a fixed basis during usual and customary PACE center hours of operation. An ACS cannot replace a PACE center and all PACE participants receiving services at an ACS must be assigned to a PACE center and IDT.

POs in County Organized Health System Counties

Counties that provide Medi-Cal services through a County Organized Health System (COHS) are the sole source for Medi-Cal services in that county. Specifically, W&I Code section 14087.5 et seq. provides that counties that elect to organize as COHS hold the exclusive right to contract for Medi-Cal services in those counties. DHCS will only consider the operation of a third party PO in a COHS county if the applicant includes a letter of support from the COHS that includes the following:

- A statement that the COHS supports the establishment of the independent PO in the county, and
- A statement that the COHS request DHCS to submit an amendment to the 1115 Waiver to allow the independent operation of a specified PO in that COHS county.

The COHS letter of support should be included with the LOI submitted by the applicant organization signifying its intent to expand into a COHS county or to start a new PO in a COHS county. DHCS will ultimately decide whether to move forward with a PACE applicant in a COHS and recommend an 1115 Waiver amendment. Any recommendation from DHCS will be subject to CMS review and approval. In the instance that independent operation of a third party PO is approved, the third party PO must contract directly with DHCS and CMS as the PACE entity in the three-way program agreement. It is not acceptable for the COHS to contract with DHCS and CMS as the PACE entity in the three-way program agreement and delegate operation of the PO to a separate entity.

This policy reflects the process that was utilized to approve the operation of Redwood Coast PACE in Humboldt County. Redwood Coast PACE was approved to operate independently from the COHS because its PACE application was submitted and accepted prior to the launch of the rural Medi-Cal managed care expansion. The COHS
PACE POLICY LETTER 19-01

(Partnership Health Plan) endorsed the Redwood Coast PACE application and the exception was made possible by an amendment to California’s existing 1115(a) Bridge to Reform Demonstration Waiver effective March 19, 2014.

Licensing

PACE centers must maintain both a Primary Care Clinic (PCC) License and an ADHC License. PO’s must also choose to either maintain a Home Health Agency (HHA) License or contract with a licensed HHA for home health services. Health & Safety Code (H&S Code) section 100315 allows DHCS, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Aging to authorize exemptions to a PO from specific licensing requirements for clinics, ADHC centers, Community Care Licensing facilities, and HHAs that are duplicative, conflicting, or inconsistent with PO requirements. Applicants should consult with the appropriate licensing entity to verify licensing requirements and anticipated time lines. If requesting exemption from licensure, a PO must maintain at least one of the PACE center required licenses (PCC or ADHC) for each PACE center.

For-profit entities applying to become a PO do not qualify to be licensed as a PCC as defined under H&S Code section1204. A for-profit designation also means that CDPH is unable to approve an exemption from PCC licensure. In this situation, DHCS has developed a clinic licensure standards review and monitoring process for PACE center PCC to verify that the PACE clinic meets the PCC licensure standards as defined by the PCC licensure statues and regulations (HSC Division 2, Chapter 1, §1200) (Title 22 California Code of Regulations, Division 5, Chapter 7. PCC). DHCS will conduct an onsite and desk review of clinic licensure standards which will occur concurrently with the SRR of the PACE center. For-profit entities are required to maintain an ADHC License and either maintain a HHA License or contract with a licensed HHA for home health services. For-profit entities must submit documentation to their DHCS contract manager, using the licensure exemption application, demonstrating that the PACE clinic meets the PCC licensure standards.

CMS will not accept SRR until all required licenses are secured. Licensure applications can be found at:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/ApplyForLicensure.aspx

Replacement PACE Centers

Existing PO’s may move locations or consolidate PACE center sites by constructing a replacement PACE center. This scenario is distinct from the construction of a new PACE center, which requires the submission of a SAE application. Replacement centers require the following transition planning items:

- Administrative Notifications: Notify CMS and DHCS at least 120 days prior to projected transition date.
• Transition Plan: PO’s must submit a detailed transition plan that outlines the occupancy timeline, replacement center capacity, contingency planning, transportation plan, notification to participants, and details of any changes in staffing, policies and procedures, etc.

PO’s seeking to replace its PACE center(s) should refer to CMS guidance released on October 21, 2016 that provides further detail on the requirements for transition. Replacement centers are not subject to the January 1 or July 1 start dates.

If you have any questions regarding the requirements of this Policy Letter, please contact your Integrated Systems of Care PACE Manager.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Evelyn Schaeffer, Division Chief
Integrated System of Care Division

Attachment I
Attachment II
Attachment III
### Attachment I - PACE Application Required Attestations and Uploads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attestation Topic</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>SAE</th>
<th>Upload Required (Initial)</th>
<th>Upload Required (SAE)</th>
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<td>Emergency and Disaster Preparedness</td>
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<td>Dietary Services</td>
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<td>Termination</td>
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<td>Maintenance of Records &amp; Reporting Data</td>
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<td>Medical Records</td>
<td>3.27</td>
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<td>Quality Assessment Performance Improvement (QAPI)</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>State Attestations</td>
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<td>Waivers</td>
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<td>Application Attestations</td>
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<td>State Readiness Review</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(as applicable)
Attachment II: Service Area Overlap Review Criteria

This tool identifies criteria that DHCS will take into consideration when evaluating applications requesting overlap of existing PACE service areas. DHCS is not limited to the use of only this criteria and will take under consideration additional factors it determines appropriate to fully assess the application. DHCS will consider all factors and ultimately decide whether to move forward with signing the State Assurance page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Subcategory</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Area Overlap with Existing PACE Operator</td>
<td>Service Area Overlap</td>
<td>Overlap includes less than 25% of potential participants in existing service area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Service Area Overlap</td>
<td>Overlap includes between 25% and 50% of potential participants in existing service area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Service Area Overlap</td>
<td>Overlap includes between 50% and 75% of potential participants in existing service area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Service Area Overlap</td>
<td>Overlap includes over 75% of potential participants in existing service area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facility Overlap</td>
<td>Proposed service area includes existing PACE facility or alternative care setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facility Overlap</td>
<td>Proposed service area does not include existing PACE facility or alternative care setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of Success &amp; Investment of Existing PACE Operators/ Applicants</td>
<td>Market Penetration of Existing Operators in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>Market penetration under 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Market Penetration of Existing Operators in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>Market penetration between 10% and 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Market Penetration of Existing Operators in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>Market penetration over 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recent Investments by Existing PACE Operator(s) and Recent Applicant(s) in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>Facility investment over $5M in the past year</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recent Investments by Existing PACE Operator(s) and Recent Applicant(s) in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>Facility investment over $5M between 1 and 2 years</td>
</tr>
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<td>Recent Investments by Existing PACE Operator(s) and Recent Applicant(s) in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>Facility investment over $5M between 2 and 3 years</td>
</tr>
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<td>Recent Investments by Existing PACE Operator(s) and Recent Applicant(s) in Proposed Service Area</td>
<td>No facility investments over $5M in last 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Support</td>
<td>Local Government Support</td>
<td>Formal vote of city council or comparable body in support of new applicant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Support</td>
<td>Local Government Support</td>
<td>Letter of support from city council member or comparable official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Government Support</td>
<td>No written support from local government official</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Support</td>
<td>Local Service Provider Involvement</td>
<td>Lead applicant is a services provider in proposed service area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Support</td>
<td>Local Service Provider Involvement</td>
<td>Supporting applicant is a services provider in proposed service area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Support</td>
<td>Local Service Provider Involvement</td>
<td>No part of applying entity is services provider in proposed service area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Attachment III: Documentation Requirements for DHCS Initial Submission Review of New PACE Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attestation Topic</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Documents required to upload in HPMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Service Area                      | 3.1       | □ Detailed map, with location of PACE center clearly marked  
□ Map to include a scale of the complete geographic service area that includes county, zip code, street boundaries, census tract or block or tribal jurisdiction and main traffic arteries, physical barriers such as mountains and rivers and location of the PACE center, hospital providers, ambulatory and institutional services sites  
□ Map to depict the mean travel time from the farthest points on the geographic boundaries to the nearest ambulatory and institutional service sites. If the geographic service area includes an area covered by another PACE organization, identify the duplicate area  
  Note: The map must be developed in accordance with 42 CFR §460.22, §460.70, and §460.98. |
| Legal Entity and Organizational Structure | 3.2       | □ Description of the organizational structure of the PACE organization, including the relationship to, at a minimum, the governing body, owner, program director, medical director, and to any parent, affiliate or subsidiary entity  
□ Evidence of non-profit or for-profit corporation status |
<p>| Governing Body                    | 3.3       | □ List of the members of the Board of Directors and their titles. Indicate which, if any, members are consumer representative. Include the name and phone number of a contact for the governing body and the name and phone number of the PACE Program director responsible for oversight and administration as described in 42 CFR §460.62(a). |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attestation Topic</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Documents required to upload in HPMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fiscal Soundness  | 3.4       | □ Description of any reserve requirements and other financial requirements set by the State and supporting documentation to demonstrate how the applicant meets these requirements  
□ Independently audited financial statement for the three most recent fiscal year periods or, if operational for a shorter period of time, for each operational fiscal year  
○ Note: If a PACE program is a line of business of the applicant, it should provide audited statements relating to the legal entity. Audits provided in the Documents section of the application, are to include:  
○ Opinion of a certified public accountant  
○ Statement of revenues and expense  
○ Balance sheet  
○ Statement of cash flows  
○ Explanatory notes  
○ Statements of changes in net worth  
□ The most recent year-to-date unaudited financial statement of the entity and independently audited financial statements of guarantors and lenders (e.g. organizations providing loans, letters of credit or other similar financing arrangements, excluding banks)  
□ Financial Projections  
○ Note: Provide financial projections beginning with program commencement through one year beyond break-even. (Financial projections should be prepared using the accrual method of accounting in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Prepare projections using the pro-forma financial statement methodology. For a line of business, assumptions need only be submitted to support the projections of the line.)  
Projections must include:  
○ Opening and annual balance sheet  
- Quarterly statements of revenues and expenses for legal entity  
- Give projections in gross dollars |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attestation Topic</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Documents required to upload in HPMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- and include year-end totals. (In cases where the plan is a line of business, the applicant should also complete a statement of revenue and expenses for the line of business).
  - Statement and justification of assumptions;
    - State major assumptions in sufficient detail to allow an independent financial analyst to reconstruct projected figures using only the stated assumptions
    - Include operating and capital budget breakdowns. Stated assumptions should address all periods for which projections are made and include inflation assumptions
    - Justify assumptions to the extent that an independent financial analyst would be convinced that they are reasonable
    - Base justification on such factors as the applicant’s experience and the experience of other PACE organizations

- Evidence of applicant’s financing arrangements for any projected deficit

- Insolvency Plan:
  - Documents that demonstrate you can, in the event it becomes insolvent, cover expenses of at least the sum of one month's total capitation revenue to cover expenses the month prior to insolvency and one month's average payment to all contractors, based on the prior quarter's average payment, to cover expenses the month after the date insolvency is declared or operations cease. (Arrangements to cover expenses may include, but are not limited to, insolvency insurance or reinsurance, hold harmless arrangements, letters of credit, guarantees, net worth, restricted state reserves or State law provisions.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attestation Topic</th>
<th>Section #</th>
<th>Documents required to upload in HPMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Attestation on your subordinated debt arrangements</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Note: The agreement must include the amount (whether it changes or not) and the account name under which the subordinate debt falls. (Subordinated debt is unsecured debt, which refers to any type of debt or general obligation that is not collateralized by a lien on specific assets of the borrower in the case of bankruptcy, liquidation or failure to meet the terms for repayment, whose repayment to its parent company or another lending entity ranks after all other debts have been paid when the subsidiary files for bankruptcy. It can also be defined as a loan that ranks below all other loans with regard to claims on assets or earnings).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ A copy of the applicant's most recent Insurance Protection table to summarize insurance or other arrangements for major types of loss and liability in accordance with 42 CFR §460.80.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>