



**SENIOR & LONG TERM CARE DIVISION
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU**

**COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICE
Policy Manual**

Section: Eligibility for Services

Subject: General Provisions and Services

Reference: ARM 37.40.1002, 37.40.1007, 37.40.1008, ARM 37.40.1110, 37.40.1115, and 37.40.1117.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Agency Based Community First Choice and Personal Assistance Services (AB-CFC/PAS) are services provided to Medicaid members who need hands-on assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL). The program also provides assistance with Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) and Personal Emergency Response System (PERS).

The program is designed around a person-centered planning (PCP) framework which promotes member choice and control in the planning and service delivery process. The goal of the program is to increase a member’s ability to live in the community and promote a member’s independence.

The Agency Based model is available to members who want the provider agency to be responsible for training, and managing the attendants, and to have a nurse supervise their CFC/PAS services.

AB-CFC/PAS provided to members less than 21 years of age must be based on medical need, age appropriateness, and family support.

SERVICE LOCATION

1. AB-CFC/PAS are available to members who reside at home and must be provided to members in their home and local community. ADL services must be provided to the member in their home. Some IADL services may be provided to the member in the community.

		AB-CFC/PAS 403
Section: Eligibility for Services	Subject: General Provisions and Services	

These IADL services are limited to medical escort, shopping, community integration (CFC-only), and off-site laundry.

2. A home residence, for purposes of receiving CFC/PAS services must allow for the following member choices in the home setting:
 - a. CFC/PAS provider agencies;
 - b. CFC/PAS attendants;
 - c. Attendant schedule and skill-set; and
 - d. Schedule of activities and services.

If the home residence is not owned by the member and is a group setting with more than four individual residents the member must have the option of signing a rent/lease agreement with the owners.

3. It is permissible for a member to receive essential AB-CFC/PAS when on vacation, traveling out of state, etc. The services provided may have to be adjusted to reflect the circumstances, i.e., no meal prep if eating in restaurants, etc.

In circumstances where services will be provided out of state the member should notify the provider agency and the provider agency must ensure that the Service Plan is adjusted to meet the member's needs appropriately on the trip. The member cannot be out of state when the member's 180-day re-evaluation and annual visits are due. In these circumstances the provider agency may complete the visit prior to the trip. If the provider agency is unsure that it will be able to properly oversee the delivery of CFC/PAS services during the trip the provider agency should contact the Regional Program Officer prior to approving the trip.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

1. AB-CFC/PAS are attendant tasks and support services that are necessitated by a member's physical or mental impairment. Tasks and supports vary depending on the needs and requirements of each member.

2. Member needs and requirements are documented through the member Service Profile and the PCP process. The Service Profile must be completed by a Mountain Pacific Quality Health (MPQH) registered nurse.

3. Attendant tasks involve direct assistance, from cuing and prompting, to total assistance. These tasks include the following activities:
 - a. Activities of Daily Living (ADL): These activities are the basic personal tasks a member needs to remain in their home. They are limited to bathing, personal hygiene, transferring, positioning, mobility, eating (including tube feedings), dressing, toileting, assistance with an exercise routine (routine must be in and around the home and part of a daily routine for health purposes deemed medically necessary), self-administered medication assistance (including reminders), and meal preparation (this includes meal planning, storing, preparing, and serving food).

 - b. Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL): These activities are designed to support and enhance a member's independence with living in the community.
 - i. Personal Assistance Service program IADL services are limited to the following: shopping for essential items and household tasks (which include laundry).

 - ii. Community First Choice program IADL services are limited to the following: shopping for essential items, household tasks (which include laundry), community integration, correspondence assistance, and yard hazard removal.

 - iii. Household tasks include assistance with activities related to housekeeping that are essential to maintaining the member's health and safety in the home. Examples of household tasks include, but are not limited to, changing bed linens, light housecleaning, cleaning of medical equipment,

		AB-CFC/PAS 403
Section: Eligibility for Services	Subject: General Provisions and Services	

laundering, washing dishes, and arranging furniture.

Note: When a member lives with a family member it is expected that the family member or significant other will provide a majority of the household tasks.

- iv. Shopping is limited to items essential to the member's health care and nutritional needs (groceries and pharmaceuticals). Shopping should be done at an in-town (i.e. local) grocery store or pharmacy or in conjunction with medical escort or community integration (CFC-only). Shopping should be done with the member present unless the member's health condition prevents them from traveling and/or shopping safely. The PCA may not shop for the entire household or for items not associated with the member's specific health care or nutrition (i.e. stop by bank, post office, video store etc.).

Note: Shopping should be provided only when a family member or other informal caregiver is unavailable.

- v. Community Integration is designed to encourage and facilitate member integration into the local community. The service is authorized when a member is isolated or unable to participate in community activities without hands-on assistance. Community integration activities must be in the community and cannot occur in the member's home. Community integration includes attendant time taking the member to and from the community activity; however, it cannot be used as transportation only. The member must have a need for the PCA during the activity in order to receive transportation for community integration.
- vi. Correspondence Assistance is designed for cognitively capable members who can direct their

		AB-CFC/PAS 403
Section: Eligibility for Services	Subject: General Provisions and Services	

PCA to act as their hands to assist the member in carrying out personal communications and organization activities. Examples include writing appointments on a calendar, dialing a phone, picking up the mail, filing, and writing letters. If a member is not capable of directing the activity the member cannot be authorized for the service. The service does not include money management, check writing, etc.

- vii. Yard Hazard Removal is authorized to remove home hazards and increase personal safety for the member and attendant to get to and from the member's house. It includes snow removal, walkway maintenance, and moving garbage bins for routine pick-up. It does not include regular lawn maintenance, animal waste removal, or house maintenance.
- c. Medical Escort: Escort services include accompanying and personally assisting members on trips to obtain Medicaid reimbursable medical services.
 - i. Escort services are available only to those members who require hands on assistance en route to or at the destination and when a family member or caregiver is unable to accompany them. (Refer to AB-CFC/PAS 707)
 - ii. Escort is authorized to the nearest appropriate Medicaid provider. Exceptions to this policy must be authorized by the Department or its designee based on medical necessity and cost effectiveness.
- d. Personal Emergency Response System (PERS): PERS is a service that provides members with an electronic, telephonic, or mechanical system to summon assistance in an emergency situation. The system alerts medical professionals, support staff, or other designated individuals to respond to the member's emergency request.

		AB-CFC/PAS 403
Section: Eligibility for Services	Subject: General Provisions and Services	

- e. Skill Acquisition is a CFC-only service designed to support a member in achieving independence in a CFC approved ADL or IADL task. The service may be authorized when the member is expected to learn the skill and achieve independence performing the task within a three month timeframe.
- 4. IADL tasks and medical escort may only be authorized and provided when a member receives ADL tasks.

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT SPECIFICATIONS

- 1. A personal care attendant (PCA) is an employee of the provider agency. PCAs cannot operate as independent contractors.
- 2. A member’s immediate family member is not considered a CFC/PAS PCA for purposes of the Medicaid program and is not eligible for reimbursement. Immediate family member is defined as the following:
 - a. Spouse;
 - b. Natural, adoptive, or foster parent of a minor child.
- 3. Two PCAs cannot provide AB-CFC/PAS at the same time unless the MPQH service profile specifically states that it is medically necessary.

AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME

Authorization for excess of the service limits will be based on a consideration of the following criteria:

- 1. Additional assistance is required for a short time as the result of an acute medical episode;
- 2. Additional assistance is required for a short time to prevent institutionalization during the absence of the normal caregiver;
- 3. Additional assistance is required for a short time during a post hospitalization period.

		AB-CFC/PAS 403
Section: Eligibility for Services	Subject: General Provisions and Services	

Note: When a member requires additional hours over their MPQH service authorization, the provider agency may document the need for services so long as it is for a period of 28 days or less and a temporary authorization is initiated (Refer to AB-CFC/PAS 417). Anytime the need exceeds 28 days, an amendment must be requested via the Service Plan (SLTC-170). This form must be faxed to MPQH (Refer to AB-CFC/PAS 719).