

Why PASRR?

We've had a few questions asking why we have PASRR and what the purpose is. Every staff in your facility who handles any part of the PASRR program needs at least a basic understanding of the PASRR program. Please share this information with your staff.

Many years ago, before PASRR and the Olmstead decision, individuals with IDD and/or MI were admitted to Nursing Facilities without options for any other placement. They may not have received the services to help them continue to develop and improve (habilitative skills training).

Today, we have more options for individuals to choose where they live, who they live with and with the training and therapy they need to live as independently as possible.

Many of the individuals with IDD and/or MI need a nursing home setting and may not be able to transition to a community home.

The screening we do (PL1) and the evaluations we do (PE) are designed to identify people with IDD and/or MI who reside in nursing facilities. The purpose of PASRR really comes into play after the identification is completed. PASRR is really about appropriate placement, giving options and providing the specialized services that individuals need.

The work you do is so important! The success stories we hear when you've made it possible for someone to return home to their family or move to a home setting with roommates is what this program is all about. Learning from you that someone you serve received their customized manual wheelchair and it kept them safe from falling... that's PASRR. When you tell me that speech therapy improved someone's ability to communicate... that's PASRR.

I'm including the language below from CMS to give you the formal introduction to PASRR. I hope that this very basic explanation helps to define why the efforts you make every day matter.

Thank you.

Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) is a federal requirement to help ensure that individuals are not inappropriately placed in nursing homes for long term care. PASRR requires that 1) all applicants to a Medicaid-certified nursing facility be evaluated for mental illness and/or intellectual disability; 2) be offered the most appropriate setting for their needs (in the community, a nursing facility, or acute care settings); and 3) receive the services they need in those settings.

PASRR is an important tool for states to use in rebalancing services away from institutions and towards supporting people in their homes, and to comply with the Supreme Court decision, *Olmstead vs L.C.* (1999), which held that that all individuals have the right to live in the "least restrictive setting" possible. PASRR can also advance person-centered care planning by assuring that psychological, psychiatric, and functional needs are considered along with personal goals and preferences in planning long term care.

In brief, the PASRR process requires that all applicants to Medicaid-certified Nursing Facilities be given a preliminary assessment to determine whether they might have MI or MR. This is called a "Level I screen." Those individuals who test positive at Level I are then evaluated in depth, called "Level II" PASRR. The results of this evaluation result in a determination of need, determination of appropriate setting, and a set of recommendations for services to inform the individual's plan of care.

Regulations governing PASRR are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, primarily at 42 CFR 483.100-138.

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