

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**STATE: ALASKA****Categorical Determinations**

A. The Department of Health, which includes Alaska's mental health and intellectual disability authorities, may make an advanced group determinations that nursing facility services are needed. Specialized services are evaluated on an individual basis, not categorically. Advanced group determination that nursing facility services are needed may be made for the following groups:

1. Terminal Illness

Terminal illness diagnosis, determined by a physician, with a medical prognosis that life expectancy is 6 months or less if the illness runs its normal course.

2. Severe Physical Illness

Severe physical illness such as coma, ventilator dependence, functioning at a brain stem level, or a diagnoses such as end stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and congestive heart failure, which result in a level of impairment so severe that an individual cannot be expected to benefit from specialized services.

3. Convalescent Care

The individual does not meet all the criteria for an exempt hospital discharge under 42 CFR 483.106(b)(2), but is admitted directly to a nursing facility following a hospitalization for acute physical illness and is likely to require less than 90 days of nursing facility services. If the individual is later determined to need a longer stay than the time limit allows, the nursing facility must notify the Department of Health by day 85.

4. Respite Stay

The individual is admitted to a nursing facility to provide respite for in-home caregivers to whom the individual with MI or IID is expected to return to following the brief nursing facility stay. Anticipated length of stay is less than 30 days. The individual is expected to return home following this brief admission. If the individual is later determined to need a longer stay than the time limit allows, the nursing facility must notify the Department of Health by day 25.

If the individual needs a longer stay than the time limit allows, they are subject to a resident review before the Department of Health permits continued stay and payment for nursing facility services past the time limit.

B. The Department of Health may make categorical determinations that individuals with dementia, which exists in combination with intellectual disability and/or a related, condition do not need specialized services.