

Apple Health Medicare Connect eligibility

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Apple Health Medicare Connect is a special kind of Medicare Advantage plan for dual-eligible individuals allowing care coordination between Medicare and Apple Health (Medicaid) services.

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An individual must be eligible for Medicare Part A, Part B, and Apple Health to qualify for Apple Health Medicare Connect. In Washington State, Apple Health Medicare Connect is the name for a Dual-Eligible Special Needs Plan (D-SNP). A D-SNP is required to offer Part D as part of its plan and often aligns with state and local priorities in areas that include access and quality initiatives.

Clients can choose their plan based on their county. Refer to the [service area guide](#) for more information. Plans are based on the county a client resides in and on their dual-eligible status. Learn more about eligibility and visit the plan's websites on the [Apple Health Medicare Connect webpage](#).

Benefits

- Network and access to care.
- Care Coordination that supports a client's dual status (partial and full).
- Additional benefits known as supplemental benefits.
- Access to the Health Homes Program.
- Indian Health Care Providers are treated as “in-network” with Apple Health Medicare Connect plans and are consistent with Apple Health plans.

Challenges

- Quarterly Special Enrollment Periods (SEP) may impact plan selection depending on timing.
- Networks or providers may not be available in every plan.
- Each year, networks or providers can choose to no longer contract with a specific plan meaning the people they serve will need to find a new network, provider, or plan to cover them.
- Enrolling in Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) disenrolls clients from Apple Health Medicare Connect.

What other options are programs are available for Apple Health and Medicare clients?

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

PACE is a type of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) available to Medicare clients that provides medical services and supports everyday living needs for certain elderly individuals, most of whom are eligible for benefits under both Medicare and Apple Health in limited zip codes of four Washington counties. These services are provided by an interdisciplinary team of professionals. For example, a primary care physician, nurse, social worker, physical therapist, and dietitian are a few of the necessary members. For additional information on PACE, visit dshs.wa.gov/altsa/program-all-inclusive-care-elderly-pace.

PACE Eligibility

Recipients must be age 55 or older, live in an area served by a PACE program, and be certified as eligible for a nursing home level of care by a state Medicaid agency or other contracted agency.

Benefits

- Varied team of health care providers and trained assistants with different specialties.
- Continuity of care coordination through the multi-disciplinary provider team and PACE organization.
- Multiple services available including primary care, rehabilitation, adult day care, home health, respite services, caregiver training, transportation, etc.

Challenges

- Individuals on PACE cannot be on Medicare Part C (including D-SNP).
- Clients are required to get care from their PACE multidisciplinary team of providers.
- Limited to specific zip codes in the King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane counties.