



Review of Draft Chapter on Functional Assessments in Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)



Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission
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Overview of Draft Chapter

- Describes the current state of functional assessments and results of MACPAC research
- Discusses varying perspectives on a national assessment tool
- Does not include recommendations

Outline of Draft Chapter

- Eligibility pathways
- Role of assessments in eligibility determination and care planning
- Federal regulations, guidance, and initiatives
- MACPAC research on state variation
- MACPAC interviews on factors influencing state choices
- Issues in moving toward a national assessment tool

Role of Assessments

- Eligibility determination
 - Entities conducting assessments vary by state
 - Typically conducted face-to-face in a beneficiary's home
- Care planning
 - May be the same tool used for eligibility determination or a different tool
 - Care coordinators may be a government entity, contractor, or managed care organization in states with managed LTSS

MACPAC Contractor Research on State Variation

- There are at least 124 distinct functional assessment tools currently in use by states.
- In most states, information from functional assessment tools used to establish eligibility is also used to develop care plans.
- Virtually all states' tools assess functional limitations, clinical needs or health status, and behavioral and cognitive status.
- Some states use functional assessment results to determine LTSS payment rates.

MACPAC Interviews with States on Choice of Tools

- States develop homegrown tools when they feel there is no clear advantage of any existing tool.
- States' decisions to implement a new assessment tool, and choice of tool, were often driven by the availability of resources.
- Resource availability also motivated several states to select an independently developed tool rather than develop homegrown tools.
- States that develop their own tools are often motivated by a desire for customization.
- The way a state organizes delivery of LTSS can lead to the use of multiple tools.

Federal Initiatives

- Balancing Incentive Program
 - Provided funding that states could use to implement new tools
 - Required certain domains be included in the tool of a state's choosing
- Testing Experience and Functional Tools (TEFT)
 - Pilot testing a set of assessment questions
 - May allow states to develop their own tools faster by having tested questions to build upon

Issues for a National Tool

Among the potential advantages, a national tool could:

- allow for comparisons of use that reflect similar levels of need;
- improve our understanding of the value of services; and
- reduce state resources used to develop new tools.

Issues for a National Tool

Among the potential disadvantages, a national tool could:

- pose a burden to states that have recently invested in new tools;
- be difficult to select as there is no clear nationally preferred tool; and
- face a challenge of meeting the needs of a rapidly changing LTSS landscape.

Next Steps

- Finalize chapter
- Monitor results from TEFT demonstration



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