

# St. Vincent PACE

## Your Rights in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

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When you join a PACE program, you have certain rights and protections. Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE, as your PACE program, must fully explain and provide your rights to you or someone acting on your behalf in a way you can understand at the time you join.

At Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE, we are dedicated to providing you with quality health care services so that you may remain as independent as possible. This includes providing all Medicaid and Medicare-covered items and services, and other services determined to be necessary by the interdisciplinary team across all care settings, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

Our staff and contractors seek to affirm the dignity and worth of each participant by assuring the following rights:

### You have the right to treatment

You have the right to treatment that is both appropriate for your health conditions and provided in a timely manner. You have the right:

- To receive all the care and services you need to improve or maintain your overall health condition, and to achieve the best possible physical, emotional, and social well-being.
- To get emergency services when and where you need them without the PACE program's approval. A medical emergency is when you think your health is in serious danger—when every second counts. You may have a bad injury, sudden illness or an illness quickly getting much worse. You can get emergency care anywhere in the United States and you do not need to get permission from Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE prior to seeking emergency services.

### You have the right to be treated with respect

You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times, to have all your care kept private and confidential, and to get compassionate, considerate care. You have the right:

- To get all of your health care in a safe, clean environment and in an accessible manner.
- To be free from harm. This includes excessive medication, physical or mental abuse, neglect, physical punishment, being placed by yourself against your will, and any physical or mental chemical restraint that is used on you for discipline or convenience of staff and that you do not need to treat your medical symptoms.

- To be encouraged and helped to use your rights in the PACE program.
- To get help, if you need it, to use the Medicare and Medicaid complaint and appeal processes, and your civil and other legal rights.
- To be encouraged and helped in talking to Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE staff about changes in policy and services you think should be made.
- To use a telephone while at the PACE center.
- To not have to do work or services for the PACE program.
- To have all information about your choices for PACE services and treatment explained to you in a language you understand and in a way that takes into account and respects your cultural beliefs, values, and customs.

### **You have the right to protection against discrimination**

Discrimination is against the law. Every company or agency that works with Medicare and Medicaid must obey the law. They cannot discriminate against you because of your:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- National Origin
- Religion
- Age
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation
- Mental or physical disability
- Source of payment for your health care (for example, Medicare or Medicaid).

If you think you have been discriminated against for any of these reasons, contact a staff member at the PACE program to help you resolve your problem.

If you have any questions, you can call the Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019. TTY users should call 1-800-537-7697.

### **You have a right to information and assistance**

You have the right to get accurate, easy-to-understand information, to have this information shared with your designated representative, who is the person you choose to act on your behalf, and to have someone help you make informed health care decisions. You have the right:

- To have someone help you if you have a language or communication barrier so you can understand all information given to you.
- To have Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE interpret the information into your preferred language in a culturally competent manner, if your first language is not English and you can't speak English well enough to understand the information being given to you.
- To get marketing materials and PACE participant rights in English and in any other frequently used language in your community. You can also get these materials in Braille, if necessary.

- To have the enrollment agreement fully explained to you in a manner understood by you.
- To get a written copy of your rights from Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE. Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE must also post these rights in a public place in the PACE center where it is easy to see them.
- To be fully informed, in writing, of the services offered by Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE. This includes telling you which services are provided by contractors instead of Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE staff. You must be given this information before you join, at the time you join, and when you need to make a choice about what services to receive.
- To be provided with a copy of individuals who provide care-related services not provided directly by Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE upon request.
- To look at, or get help to look at, the results of the most recent review of your PACE program. CMS and State of Indiana agencies review all PACE programs. You also have a right to review how the Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE plans to correct any problems that are found at inspection.

Before Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE starts providing palliative care, comfort care, and end-of-life care services, you have the right to have information about these services fully explained to you. This includes your right to be given in writing, a complete description of these services and how they are different from the care you have been receiving, and whether these services are in addition to, or instead of, your current services. The information must also explain, in detail, how your current services will be affected if you choose to begin palliative care, comfort care, or end-of-life services. Specifically, it must explain any impact to:

- Physician services, including specialist services
- Therapy, including physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Diagnostic testing, including imaging and laboratory services
- Hospital Services
- Long-term care services
- Nursing services
- Social services
- Dietary services
- Transportation
- Home care
- Behavioral health
- Medications
- Preventative healthcare services
- PACE center attendance

You have the right to change your mind and take back your consent to receive palliative care, comfort care, or end-of-life care services at any time and for any reason by letting Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE know either verbally or in writing.

### **You have the right to a choice of providers**

You have the right to choose a health care provider, including your primary care provider and specialists, from within the Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE program's network, and to get quality health care. Women have the right to get services from a

qualified women's health care specialist for routine or preventive women's health care services.

You have the right to have reasonable and timely access to specialists as indicated by your health condition.

You also have the right to receive care across all care settings, up to and including placement in a long-term care facility when Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE can no longer maintain you safely in the community.

### **You have the right to participate in treatment decisions**

You have the right to fully participate in all decisions related to your health care. If you cannot fully participate in your treatment decisions or you want to have someone you trust help you, you have the right to choose that person to act on your behalf as your designated representative. You have the right:

- To be fully informed of your health status and how well you are doing, to make health care decisions, and to have all treatment options fully explained to you. This includes the right not to get treatment or take medications. If you choose not to get treatment, you must be told how this may affect your physical and mental health.
- To fully understand Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE's palliative care, comfort care, and end-of-life care services. Before Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE can start providing you with palliative care, comfort care, and end-of-life care services, the PACE program must explain all of your treatment options, give you written information about these options, and get written consent from you or your designated representative.
- To have Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE help you create an advance directive, if you choose. An advance directive is a written document that says how you want medical decisions to be made in case you cannot speak for yourself. You should give it to the person who will carry out your instructions and make health care decisions for you.
- To participate in making and carrying out your plan of care. You can ask for your plan of care to be reviewed at any time.
- To be given advance notice, in writing, of any plan to move you to another treatment setting and the reason you are being moved.

### **You have the right to have your health information kept private**

- You have the right to talk with health care providers in private and to have your personal health care information kept private and confidential, including health data that is collected and kept electronically, as protected under State and Federal laws.
- You have the right to look at and receive copies of your medical records and request amendments.

- You have the right to be assured that your written consent will be obtained for the release of information to persons not otherwise authorized under law to receive it.
- You have the right to provide written consent that limits the degree of information and the persons to whom information may be given.

There is a patient privacy rule that gives you more access to your own medical records and more control over how your personal health information is used. If you have any questions about this privacy rule, call the Office for Civil Rights at 1-800-368-1019. TTY users should call 1-800- 537-7697.

### **You have a right to make a complaint**

You have a right to complain about the services you receive or that you need and don't receive, the quality of your care, or any other concerns or problems you have with Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE. You have the right to a fair and timely process for resolving concerns with Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE. You have the right:

- To a full explanation of the complaint process.
- To be encouraged and helped to freely explain your complaints to Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE staff and outside representatives of your choice. You must not be harmed in any way for telling someone your concerns. This includes being punished, threatened, or discriminated against.
- **To contact 1-800-Medicare for information and assistance, including to make a complaint related to the quality of care or the delivery of a service.**

### **You have the right to request additional services or file and appeal**

You have the right to request services from Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE, its employees, or contractors, that you believe are necessary. You have the right to a comprehensive and timely process for determining whether those services should be provided.

You also have the right to appeal any denial of a service or treatment decision by Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE, staff, or contractors.

### **You have a right to leave the program**

If, for any reason, you do not feel that the Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE program is what you want, you have the right to leave the program at any time and have such disenrollment be effective the first day of the month following the date Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE receives your notice of voluntary disenrollment.

### **Additional help**

If you have complaints about your Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE program, think your rights have been violated, or want to talk with someone outside Ascension Living St. Vincent PACE about your concerns, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) to get the name and phone number of someone in your State Administering Agency.