



# Indiana Level of Care Assessment Representative (LCAR)

## Understanding Your Changing Role in the LCAR Process

Nursing facility level of care (NF LOC) assessments and determinations are a requirement in order to qualify for care in a nursing facility or for several of Indiana's Home and Community-Based (HCBS) Waivers. Indiana's HCBS Waiver services that require NF LOC assessments and determinations include:

- PathWays for Aging Waiver for adults who are 60 years of age or older
- Health and Wellness (H&W) Waiver for individuals under age 60
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver for individuals that have a TBI diagnosis.

On July 1, 2025, changes to the NF LOC process will be launched by the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. Updates include partnering with Maximus to serve as the Level of Care Assessment Representative (LCAR) with a goal of streamlining and enhancing access to NF LOC determinations in a timely and effective manner.

The changes planned with this transition impact the roles and responsibilities of program stakeholders. Details on multiple upcoming training webinars will be communicated to program stakeholders in the months ahead of the planned go-live date. These in-depth sessions are designed to assist each of the affected entities with new or updated processes including Level of Care (LOC) Assessment Request forms, and other changes.

The guide below outlines how you and your team will be affected by these changes moving forward.

### **Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) / Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) / Independent Case Managers (ICM)**

#### **The role of AAA/ADRC and ICMs in the NF LOC process is changing.**

AAA/ADRC and ICMs will no longer conduct NF LOC assessments for individuals in the community who access care in a nursing facility or an HCBS Waiver. NF LOC assessment requests should now be referred to Maximus by phone, email, or completing an Assessment Request on behalf of the person in AssessmentPro. For anyone enrolled in Indiana's PathWays for Aging program, their Managed Care Entity (MCE) will be responsible for completing the NF LOC assessment. AAA/ADRC and ICMs will continue to complete NF LOC assessments for individuals they currently support in nonwaiver programs, such as CHOICE, when the individual's needs change, and they begin to seek NF care or HCBS waiver services. AAA will submit completed assessments for these individuals in AssessmentPro.



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	<p>AAA/ADRC and ICMs will no longer complete reassessments for potential NF LOC denials. Potential NF LOC denials will first be reviewed by a Maximus physician, and if the potential denial is upheld, the Division of Aging will then review the NF LOC assessment and determine the final outcome.</p> <p>AAA/ADRC and ICMs will no longer complete annual or re-entry reassessments for the individuals they serve under the Health and Wellness or TBI waivers. Reassessments will be completed by Maximus. Streamlining the level of care evaluations and determination by LCAR will empower Health &amp; Wellness Waiver and Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Case Managers and Pathways Waiver Service Coordinators to focus their attention to enhancing care coordination of paid and unpaid supports and services, such as those obtained by partnering with community resources. The impact will ensure efficient allocation of resources and elevate the quality-of-service delivery.</p> <p>Individuals under age 60 who are determined to meet NF LOC and receive a long-term approval determination, will be queued to the AAA/ADRC and ICMs whom the individual selected to provide case management services in AssessmentPro. AAA/ADRC and ICMs will work with the individual and support them through the decision process regarding the service that best meets their needs, and service plan development. This process is known as options counseling.</p> <p>For individuals 60 years of age or older who are determined to meet NF LOC and receive a long-term approval determination, Maximus will complete the intake counseling process.</p>
<b>Hospitals</b>	<p><b>Assessments completed by Hospitals for NF LOC are changing.</b></p> <p>Hospitals will continue to complete NF LOC assessments for people in your hospital who are seeking NF admission, but the assessment tool(s) used will change. The short form of the interRAI Home Care (HC) will no longer be used, and you will need to complete the full interRAI HC for individuals aged 18 and up.</p> <p>There will be two new interRAI assessment tools used for the child and youth population. The interRAI Pediatric Home Care (PEDS) will be used for Ages 4-17 and the interRAI Early Years (EY) will be used for Ages 0-3.</p>
<b>Managed Care Entities (MCE)</b>	<p><b>MCEs will now have a vital role in the NF LOC process.</b></p> <p>MCEs will use a member's full CHAT to assess NF LOC. The MCEs will submit assessment data through a file exchange into Maximus' AssessmentPro system. If the Assessment Reference Date (ARD) on the CHAT is within the last 120 days, Maximus will review the completed</p>



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	<p>CHAT and make a determination if NF LOC is met. If the ARD date is older than 120 days, Maximus will complete a new NF LOC assessment and determination. Determinations will be available to you in AssessmentPro for immediate access or through Core. From July 1, 2025, until the CHAT integration is completed on August 19, 2025, MCEs will be asked to log into AssessmentPro to submit NF LOC.</p>
<b>Nursing Facilities (NF)</b>	<p><b>The role of Nursing Facilities in the NF LOC process is changing.</b></p> <p>On January 1, 2026, NFs will no longer complete NF LOC assessments for your residents. When one of your residents needs a new NF LOC assessment, you will submit an Assessment Request form to Maximus in AssessmentPro. Circumstances that require a new LOC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A nursing facility resident that has both a short-term PASRR and LOC determination expiring (a PASRR Level I will also need to be submitted with this type of assessment request)</li><li>• A nursing facility resident has a prior short-term LOC approval (and does not need a new PASRR) that is expiring and additional time in the nursing facility is being requested</li><li>• A nursing facility resident is converting to Medicaid</li><li>• A nursing facility resident has a current LOC approval but has had a significant change in status and needs a new assessment to determine their current level of care needs (a PASRR Level I will also need to be submitted with this type of assessment request)</li></ul> <p><i>Note: The short form of the interRAI Home Care (HC) will no longer be used moving forward from the July 1, 2025, go-live date and you will need to complete the full interRAI HC for individuals aged 18 and up.</i></p> <p><i>There will be two new interRAI assessment tools used for the child and youth population. The interRAI Pediatric Home Care (PEDS) will be used for Ages 4-17 and the interRAI Early Years (EY) will be used for Ages 0-3.</i></p>
<b>PACE Providers</b>	<p><b>Part of the NF LOC process for PACE providers is changing.</b></p> <p>PACE providers will no longer complete initial NF LOC assessments for people wanting to access PACE services. You will direct the person to contact Maximus to request a NF LOC assessment or you can submit an Assessment Request on behalf of the person in AssessmentPro. You will continue to complete annual NF LOC reassessments for people actively receiving PACE services.</p>