

Everyday Affairs

A caregiver's solution

Do you have frail elderly patients who are struggling with activities of daily living? Do you have patients who are stressed and overwhelmed with caregiver responsibilities for an elderly parent or spouse? You can be a part of the solution.

If these patients live in Worcester County, Hudson or Marlborough, you can make them aware of Elder Service Plan sponsored by Fallon Community Health Plan, and give them an opportunity to regain control over their lives. **Elder Service Plan, soon to be "rebranded" as Summit ElderCare**, is an alternative to nursing home placement for frail elders.

Elder Service Plan (ESP) is a federally recognized Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, also known as a PACE program. Many ESP participants have their entire premium costs covered by Medicare and Medicaid.

PACE programs combine comprehensive insurance coverage (it replaces any insurance coverage currently in place) with a multidisciplinary geriatric medical care team. Personalized care plans are developed and frequently modified to incorporate changing medical needs as well as social needs, such as home care, meal preparation, medication management and medical transportation that help the participant remain in his or her own community.

This innovative program eliminates the legwork, coverage gaps and financial barriers often associated with complex elder care issues. While the obvious beneficiaries are the ESP participants, caregivers receive a great amount of support, too.

To be eligible for enrollment, prospective participants must be:

- 55 or older
- A resident of Worcester County, Hudson or Marlborough
- Eligible for nursing home placement
- Able to live safely in the community

For more information

If you would like some **ESP brochures for your office**, or if you would like to **tour** the Elder Service Plan site in Worcester, please contact a Fallon Community Health Plan provider relations representative at 1-866-ASK-FCHP.

If you have a **patient or a caregiver** that you feel might benefit from ESP, you can refer them directly to an ESP enrollment coordinator at 1-508-368-9690. Or, if you prefer, you can give us the information and one of our enrollment coordinators will contact the family to review the program.

As you already know, many families rely on their physicians to help them with elder care issues. This is one solution that you can feel confident about.