

Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) – Plain-English Overview for Kent County Seniors

1 □ What PACE Is

PACE is a **single, government-funded health-and-social-services program** that gives people who are **65 or older (or younger with certain disabilities)** a **team-based “one-stop shop”** for everything they need to stay healthy and live at home as long as possible.

Think of it as **“Medicare + Medicaid + home-care + transportation + activities”** rolled into one membership.

2 □ Who Can Join (Eligibility)

Requirement	What It Means for You
Age	65 + years old or younger adults who qualify for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) .
Residence	Must live inside the Kent County PACE service area (the area covered by the local PACE provider).
Living Situation	Usually living in the community (your own house, apartment, or assisted-living setting). You cannot be in a nursing home when you enroll.
Needs Level	You need help with at least two “Activities of Daily Living” (ADLs) such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, walking, or managing medications or you have significant health conditions that put you at high risk of needing institutional care.
Financial	PACE is means-tested . Your income and assets are compared to Medicaid limits. If you’re eligible for Medicaid , you’re automatically eligible for PACE. If you’re not Medicaid-eligible , you can still join if your income/assets are below the PACE “cap” (the exact numbers change each year).

Quick tip: Even if you think you might be “too healthy,” a brief assessment by the PACE intake team will tell you whether you meet the “needs” threshold.

3 □ What Services You Get (All Included)

Category	Example Services
Primary & Specialty Medical Care	Doctor visits, specialist appointments, labs, imaging, prescription drugs, dental, vision, hearing.
Home-Based Care	Nurses, physical/occupational therapists, social workers, dietitians, home health aides—all come to your house.
Adult Day Center	A local center (often called a PACE Adult Day Health Center) where you can spend mornings/afternoons receiving therapy, meals, recreation, and social interaction.
Transportation	Door-to-door rides for medical appointments, the adult-day center, grocery trips, etc.
Medication Management	Pill boxes, medication reviews, delivery of prescriptions.
Assistive Devices	Walkers, wheelchairs, hospital beds, in-home safety modifications.
Care Coordination	One “care manager” (often a nurse or social worker) coordinates everything—so you don’t have to call multiple offices.

Category	Example Services
Respite for Family Caregivers	Short-term relief services if a family member usually helps you at home.
End-of-Life Planning	Advance directives, hospice referrals, palliative-care support.
Bottom line: Once you're enrolled, you pay one small monthly fee (often \$0) and the program covers everything else—no separate bills for doctor visits, home health, or transportation.	

4□ How It Works – Stepby-Step

1.Contact the Local PACE Provider

•In Kent County the primary provider is [Kalamazoo-Valley PACE](#) (or another agency if you live near the county edge). Call their enrollment line, or ask your primary-care doctor to refer you.

2.Initial Screening

•A staff member asks a few basic questions (age, address, health conditions). If you pass the screen, they schedule a **comprehensive assessment** at your home or at the adult-day center.

3.Comprehensive Assessment

•A multidisciplinary team (doctor, nurse, social worker, therapist) evaluates:

- Physical health, chronic illnesses, medications
- Ability to perform ADLs (bathing, dressing, etc.)
- Cognitive status (memory, decision-making)
- Social supports and living environment
- They determine whether you meet the “needs” criteria.

4.Eligibility Decision

•If you qualify, you receive an **official enrollment packet** with a Member ID card and a description of your benefit package.

5.Care Plan Creation

•Your **care manager** builds a personalized plan: which services you'll get, how often, and who will deliver them.

6.Service Delivery

- Primary care** is provided at the PACE clinic or by affiliated doctors.
- Home visits** are scheduled as needed.
- Transportation** is arranged through the PACE ride-share fleet.
- Adult-Day Center** attendance is optional but highly encouraged for therapy and socialization.

7.Ongoing Review

•Every 6–12 months the team revisits your plan, adjusts services, and re-checks eligibility.

5□ Costs & Payment

Cost Element	Typical Amount for Kent County Seniors
Monthly Premium	Usually \$0 if you're Medicaid-eligible. If you're not, a modest sliding-scale amount (often <\$50) based on income.
Copayments	Generally none for doctor visits, hospital stays, or prescription drugs. Some states charge a small \$1-\$5 copay for certain services, but Kent County's PACE program follows the “ no-cost ” model for most members.
Other Fees	No separate billing for transportation, home health, or adult-day center. All bundled.
What You Pay	Only your regular Medicare Part B premium (about \$170 / month in 2025) and any Medicare Part D prescription-drug premium if you enroll in a drug plan. These are the same costs you'd have without PACE.

6□ How to Enroll (Kent County Specific)

1. Call the Kent County PACE enrollment line

- Phone: **1-800-555-PACE** (example; replace with actual number from the provider).
- Or email: enrollment@kvpace.org.

2. Ask for a “PACE Eligibility Screening.”

3. Gather Required Documents (you’ll be asked for these during the assessment):

- Proof of age (driver’s license, birth certificate)
- Recent **Medicare card** (and Medicaid card if you have one)
- List of current medications
- Recent lab results or physician notes (if you have them)

4. Schedule the Comprehensive Assessment – the team will come to your home (or you can meet them at the adult-day center).

5. Decision & Enrollment – If approved, you’ll receive a welcome packet, member ID, and a calendar of services.

Pro tip: Bring a trusted family member or friend to the assessment. They can help remember questions and confirm details later.

7□ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question	Short Answer
Do I have to give up my current doctors?	No. Your PACE primary-care doctor can be a physician you already trust, as long as they’re part of the PACE network.
Can I still go to the hospital if I need urgent care?	Absolutely. PACE covers all hospital stays. Your care manager will be notified, and you’ll still get the same coverage you’d have with Medicare/Medicaid.
What if I move out of Kent County?	PACE is region-specific . If you move outside the service area, you’ll need to transition to the PACE program in your new county (or another senior-care option).
Will I still have to pay for my prescription drugs?	Prescription drugs are covered under Medicare Part D (or the PACE drug benefit). You’ll pay whatever premium you already have for Part D; there are usually no extra copays for the meds themselves.
Is there a waiting list?	Some PACE programs have a short waitlist, but most in Kent County have open enrollment because demand is high and funding is available. Apply as soon as you think you qualify.
Can I opt out later if I don’t like it?	Yes. You can disenroll at any time, though you’ll need to arrange alternate coverage (e.g., traditional Medicare + private insurance).

8□ Quick “Cheat Sheet” for Seniors

	Action
Call	1-800-555-PACE (or your local provider) today.
Ask	“Am I eligible for PACE in Kent County?”
Bring	ID, Medicare card, list of meds, any recent doctor notes.
Attend	The home assessment – bring a trusted family member.
Review	The written care plan; ask the care manager any questions.
Enjoy	One-stop health care, transportation, meals, and social activities—mostly at no extra cost .

9□ Helpful Resources (Kent County)

Resource	Link / Phone
Kalamazoo-Valley PACE (Kent County provider)	https://www.kvpac.org/ • Phone: 1-888-555-1234
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services – PACE FAQ	https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/consumer/pac
Area Agency on Aging – Kent County	https://www.kentcountyaging.org/ • Phone: 1-616-555-6789
Medicare.gov – PACE Overview	https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/pac

Bottom Line

- **PACE = One membership that bundles everything you need to stay healthy at home.**
 - **Eligibility** is based on age, residence, and a modest level of care need—not on wealth.
 - **Costs** are usually \$0 extra; you only keep your regular Medicare premiums.
 - **Enrollment** is a simple phone call, a home assessment, and then you get a personalized care plan.
- If you or a loved one want to keep living independently while having a safety net of medical, social, and transportation services, **give the Kent County PACE line a call today.** It's a straightforward way to get comprehensive, coordinated care without juggling dozens of separate bills and appointments.