

New York - Monroe County The ILS Program Administered through ViaHealth

(Summary by Brenda Schmitthenner)

The ILS (Independent Living for Seniors) program was implemented by Via Health and was first piloted at Rochester General Hospital in 1990. In three years, it was noted that hospital and SNF stays were reduced by 50%, and patient and family satisfaction dramatically increased.

The eligibility requirements to participate in this program include: must be frail enough to qualify for SNF placement, must receive Medicare A&B benefits, must also receive Medicaid or be willing to pay a medical premium if over age 55, and must be willing to change primary care physicians if requested.

The services provided by the program include: acute, SNF and out patient services, PACE Day Centers, medical and specialist care (routine and preventative), nursing services, SW services, Physical, Occupational and Speech therapies, nutrition counseling and education, lab and diagnostic testing and procedures, prescription drugs, DMEs and prosthesis, podiatry care, vision care including glasses, psychiatric evaluation and treatment, audiology evaluation and hearing aides, dentistry, HHA or personal care aid services, homemaker or chore services, home delivered meals, transportation, translation services and financial management assistance.

In the ILS program, the interdisciplinary team consisting of the doctor, RN, SW, Rehab Therapists, Recreation Therapist, Nutritionist and others, assess and prescribe a complete plan of care for each participant. This team meets regularly to discuss and agree on the treatment plan. Each participant has a single, comprehensive record. The

program prides itself on providing a SNF level of care to its participants in the community rather than in an institution. Help is available 24hrs. per day, seven days a week. Participants are encouraged to attend one of the many Pace Day Centers located in the community, one to seven days each week. Their IDG team is located at the center that they regularly attend. ILS works with participants and families to modify the home environment for safety and convenience. They mobilize assistance from family, friends and neighbors to help their participants.

There was no information available about the referral source, the assessment tool that they use, the number of lives they manage, their capitation rates or the demographics of their participants. Direct communication with the ILS program would be required to obtain these details.