Australian Government
Department of Health

What is AN-ACC Class 1 (Admit for Palliative Care)?

The Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) care funding model will replace the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) from 1 October 2022. AN-ACC includes a separate funding class for individuals who enter residential care for the purpose of receiving palliative care.

Overview

AN-ACC is a key component of the major aged care reforms being implemented in response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. AN-ACC will provide more equitable care funding to providers that better matches resident funding with the costs of delivering care.

The AN-ACC funding model includes 13 variable funding classes that reflect the different care needs of residents in each class. AN-ACC Class 1 'Admit for Palliative Care' recognises that care recipients who enter for the purpose of receiving palliative care are clinically discrete and require significant additional resources for their care.

This class also ensures appropriate funding for care recipients whose prognosis may not allow time for the standard independent AN-ACC assessment process to occur.

Who is eligible for Class 1?

To be eligible for AN-ACC Class 1 a resident must have *palliative care status* at the date of entry into (non-respite) care, which means:

- a life expectancy of 3 months or less, **AND**
- an Australia-Modified Karnofsky Performance[1] (AKPS) score of 40 or less.

That prognosis and the AKPS score must have been given by a medical practitioner, or nurse practitioner, prior to the date of entry, and independently of the residential aged care facility.

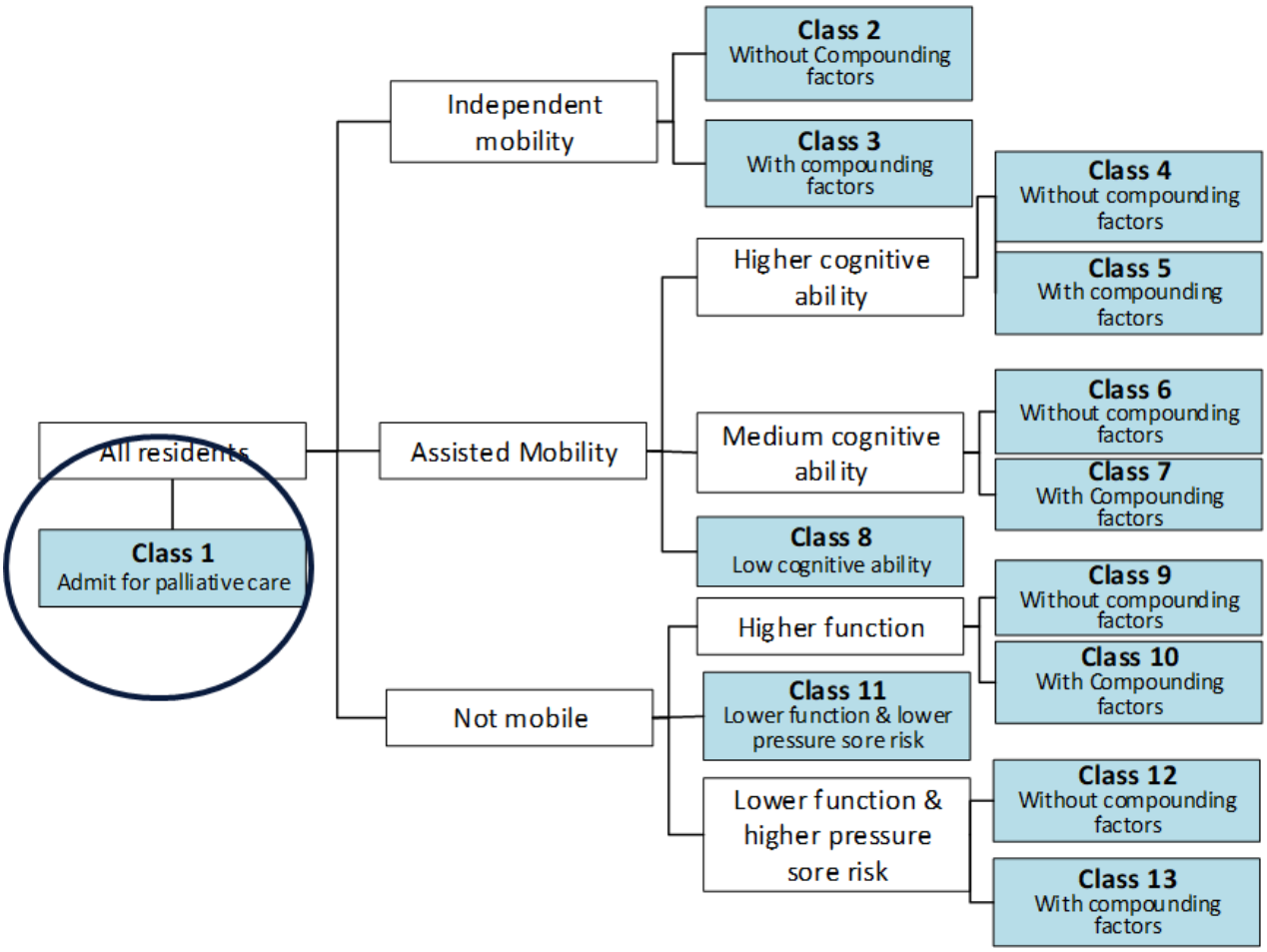
Information provided in the 'Palliative care status form' is used to determine eligibility for AN-ACC Class 1

A closer look at AN-ACC Class 1

The AN-ACC funding model groups residents into 13 variable funding classes reflecting different clinical and resource requirements.

AN-ACC Class 1 is specifically for individuals who enter residential care for the purpose of receiving palliative care. AN-ACC allows planned entry of care recipients with *palliative care status* into a discrete funding class, without an AN-ACC assessment.

Figure 1 – AN-ACC Variable Funding Classes



How do I apply for Class 1 status for a new resident?

Where a provider becomes aware that a prospective resident is entering for the purpose of receiving palliative care, and meets the criteria for Class 1 entry, the following process will apply:

[1]Abernethy, A. P., Currow, D. C., Shelby-James, T., Fazekas, B. S., & Woods, D. (2005). The Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Status (AKPS) scale: A revised scale for contemporary palliative care clinical practice.

1. The provider checks that the individual has a 'Palliative care status form' completed by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, or requests that this is completed prior to the date of entry.
2. The provider selects the 'entry for palliative care' box in the Aged Care Entry Record (ACER). This will trigger a My Aged Care notification, prompting the provider to submit the completed 'Palliative care status form' within 14 days.
3. The provider submits the completed 'Palliative care status form' via the My Aged Care Portal.
4. The Department of Health (the department) will assess Class 1 eligibility and advise the provider of the outcome.

What is the Palliative Care Status Form?

The 'Palliative care status form' is used by the department to determine whether a person entering a residential aged care facility has Class 1 (palliative care) status for residential aged care classification and funding purposes.

The 'Palliative care status form' includes:

- a palliative prognosis completed by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner
- a declaration by the provider that the person is entering for the purpose of receiving planned palliative care
- a declaration by the care recipient or their representative providing consent.

Who can complete a Palliative Care Status Form?

The 'Palliative care status form' must be completed and signed by a medical practitioner, or nurse practitioner, independently of the aged care provider and prior to the care recipient entering the residential aged care facility.

Can I apply for Class 1 status for a new resident who enters before 1 October 2022?

Yes. In preparation for the implementation of AN-ACC on 1 October 2022, Class 1 will be available for new residents who enter a facility from 23 July 2022 and meet the Class 1 eligibility requirements. This will ensure the facility will receive the AN-ACC Class 1 payment for these residents from 1 October 2022, without the need for an AN-ACC assessment.

What happens if I don't submit the 'Palliative care status form' in time or if it is not completed correctly?

If a correctly completed 'Palliative care status form' is not uploaded within 14 days of notification of entry, or is not submitted at all, the care recipient will be referred for an AN-ACC assessment to determine their classification. The department may grant an extension to this timeframe in exceptional circumstances.

What funding will be provided if a resident passes away before their Class 1 status is confirmed?

If a new resident enters a facility for the purposes of receiving palliative care, and he or she passes away or leaves the facility prior to their Class 1 status being confirmed, the provider will receive a default rate for the AN-ACC variable funding component for the entire period the resident was in their care. Providers will be advised of the default rates prior to the implementation of AN-ACC. Once assessed, the resident's actual classification will replace the default classification, with payment adjusted automatically.

Do new residents entering for the purpose of receiving palliative care require an AN-ACC assessment?

No, new residents entering residential care for the purpose of receiving palliative care, and who meet the AN-ACC Class 1 requirements, will not be required to have an AN-ACC assessment. Residents with Palliative Care Status will not receive an AN-ACC shadow assessment.

Are residents who become palliative after entering care eligible for Class 1?

No, residents are only eligible for Class 1 if they enter a facility for the purpose of receiving palliative care and meet the Class 1 eligibility requirements.

If there is a significant change in care needs for a care recipient who did not enter for planned palliative care, but who becomes palliative after entry, the provider can request a reclassification of that resident. A resident in such circumstances may receive a higher classification of Class 13, which is equivalent to Class 1.

Refer to 'Can I ask for a resident reclassification under AN-ACC?' fact sheet for further information.

If a resident has palliative status under ACFI, will they be classified as Class 1 under AN-ACC?

No. All existing residents will require an independent AN-ACC assessment to determine their AN-ACC variable funding class.

Related AN-ACC information

See the following fact sheets for related information:

Can I ask for a resident reclassification under AN-ACC?

More information and resources

Further information about the AN-ACC care funding model is available on the residential aged care funding reform webpage. The following resources are also available to help providers stay informed about the AN-ACC care funding model and to assist providers with the transition to the new arrangements.

Information source	Description
Resources and factsheets	Resources and factsheets can be located here.
Social media	Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram
Subscriptions	Subscribe to the department's newsletters here for aged care updates.
Ageing and Aged Care Engagement Hub	Find current engagement activities and register your interest to be involved in workshops, focus groups, webinars and surveys Website: https://www.agedcareengagement.health.gov.au/

Information source	Description
AN-ACC funding and care minutes estimator	Access the online AN-ACC funding and care minutes estimator to help estimate your potential funding levels and care minutes targets. The estimator provides a point in time estimate—it produces high-level results based on your existing AN-ACC resident classifications and has been provided to assist you with your planning and transition activities only. Actual funding levels and care minutes targets will be accurately derived through the AN-ACC ICT system and may vary based on changes to your resident cohort before 1 October 2022.
AN-ACC Funding Helpdesk	For assistance with your AN-ACC funding and care minutes targets, contact the AN-ACC Funding Helpdesk: • Phone: (02) 4406 6002 (available from 9:30am to 4:30pm AEST Monday to Friday) • Email: ANACCfundinghelp@health.gov.au
My Aged Care service provider and assessor helpline	For help with the My Aged Care system or technical support for providers and assessors. Phone: 1800 836 799 The helpline is available from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday to Friday and 10:00am to 2:00pm Saturday, local time across Australia.

Last updated on 7 July 2022