Mountain Empire PACE is a health care plan for frail seniors who live in Wise County, Lee County, Scott County or the City of Norton. PACE stands for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

PACE is a nationally recognized model of long term care that allows frail older people to live in their own homes and communities as long as possible. PACE offers a broad range of medical, social, and day health services in home-based and community-based settings and affords hospital or nursing home care when needed.
In Mountain Empire PACE, an “Interdisciplinary Team” (IDT) creates a tailor-made set of health services for each person who takes part in the program. This plan of care is designed to treat whatever illnesses each person already has while keeping new problems from coming up. The IDT includes a doctor, nurse, social worker, dietitian, pharmacist, personal care aide, bus driver, activity coordinator, and restorative therapists (physical, occupational, or speech). The IDT arranges for all the medical and social services needed to live safely in the community.

PACE participants and their families work with the IDT on a common goal – to keep living safely in their own homes with people they love and who love them. PACE provides loving care to participants and peace of mind to their families.

Mountain Empire PACE is proud to be a part of Mountain Empire Older Citizens (MEOC), an agency that has provided excellent community-based care to older people in southwest Virginia since 1974. The Mountain Empire PACE Center is on MEOC premises in Big Stone Gap. The PACE Center includes a medical clinic, physical therapy unit, adult day health center, kitchen and dining area, personal care unit, and offices for IDT members.

PACE is available to people who:

- are aged 55 or older
- live in Norton or Lee, Scott or Wise Counties
- are certified as eligible for nursing home level of care by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and
- are able to live safely in the community with support services arranged by PACE.
If you have BOTH Medicaid and Medicare, you can participate in PACE without paying deductibles or co-payments, but you may need to pay a set premium each month to stay eligible for Medicaid. Mountain Empire PACE will tell you in advance if you need to pay a premium.

If you have Medicaid, but NOT Medicare, you can participate in PACE without paying deductibles or co-payments, but you may need to pay a set amount each month to stay eligible for Medicaid. Mountain Empire PACE will tell you in advance if you need to pay a premium.

If you have Medicare ONLY, you must pay a monthly premium to participate in PACE.

If you have NEITHER Medicaid nor Medicare, you must pay our full monthly premium.

When you enroll in Mountain Empire PACE, you agree to receive all your health care through our program. If you seek care outside PACE (except for emergencies), you will have to pay for it yourself.

You can leave PACE any time you choose and we will help you re-enroll in regular Medicaid and Medicare benefits. You may be involuntarily disenrolled from PACE for certain reasons, such as moving out of the service area or refusing to follow your approved plan of care.

Mountain Empire PACE
P. O. Box 888
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

866-793-7223 or 276-523-0599
Participants are the heart of Mountain Empire PACE.

Phone: 276-523-0599
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Mountain Empire PACE is a non-profit program. It is funded through a contract with Medicaid and Medicare. In the contract, Mountain Empire PACE agrees to provide every service covered by Medicaid and Medicare plus other services the IDT decides are necessary.

Mountain Empire PACE offers health coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. All services must be approved by the Mountain Empire PACE IDT.

Services are provided in the Mountain Empire PACE Center, in the homes of participants, and in hospitals, nursing homes, physician offices, or other locations as needed.

Services available at the Mountain Empire PACE Center include:

- physician services
- nursing care
- physical therapy
- occupational therapy
- speech therapy
- recreation and social activities
- adult day health and respite care
- meals and nutrition counseling
- personal care (bathing, grooming, help with other activities of daily living)
- prescription medication and assistance
- social services
- care coordination, and
- transportation.

PACE is a program of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Services in the Home

Services available at home include:

- 24 hour on-call physician services
- adaptation of the home to accommodate disabilities or special needs
- home delivered meals
- home health (skilled nursing services)
- homemaker and chore services
- personal care (bathing, grooming, other help with activities of daily living)
- lifeline emergency response system
- prescription medication and assistance
- respite care
- restorative therapies (physical, occupational, speech)
- transportation to/from PACE appointments.

Services in Other Places

Other services available are:

- ambulance transportation for emergencies
- audiology and hearing aids
- dentistry
- durable medical equipment and supplies
- emergency room care
- hospitalization
- lab tests and procedures
- mental health and substance abuse services
- nursing home and skilled nursing services
- optometry (eyeglasses)
- podiatry (foot care)
- radiology (x-ray) services
- rehabilitation services (inpatient)
- primary care and specialty physician services (upon referral).
Mountain Empire PACE will not discriminate against potential or active participants for any reason, including race, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age (except as required for eligibility), sex, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, or source of payment.

Mountain Empire PACE moved to a new building in December 2009.