

BSW 723 Services: Personal Emergency Response System

March 8, 2021

DEFINITION

The Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device or mechanical system used to summon medical assistance in an emergency situation. The device must be necessary and not duplicate another device used for the same need.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT

PERS must be programmed to signal a local response center once the “help” button is activated. The response center must be staffed by trained professionals and must have the capacity to activate emergency medical personnel.

SERVICE LIMITATIONS

Community First Choice (CFC) provides PERS devices to members. Big Sky Waiver members who also receive CFC services may receive a PERS through the waiver if the PERS provided by CFC does not meet their needs.

Similarly, residential habilitation service providers, including assisted living facilities, are required to provide PERS devices to members. Case management teams may feel that a member’s circumstances warrant the authorization of a different PERS device through the Big Sky Waiver.

Reimbursement is not available for the purchase, installation, or monthly charges of a telephone under this service. The member must have the capability to activate the PERS device.

The member must accept and understand that they have a personal responsibility for the device. The device must be returned to the company when it is no longer necessary, or the member chooses to change PERS providers. Reimbursement is not available for lost or stolen PERS devices.

Review of Proposed Policy Change for HCBS 723 Personal Emergency Response System – Micky Brown

1. ARM 37.40.1486 states the definition of the PERS service and defines the criteria which must be met in order to qualify as a PERS service. It does not address member's eligibility to receive PERS services.

Determination: The ARM will need to be modified to reflect the added language which adds limits to the PERS service.

2. The Waiver Technical Guide states the definition of PERS services and does not address member's eligibility to receive PERS services. **No change required.**

3. BSW Waiver Application states the definition of PERS services. It also gives a more liberal definition of a BSW member's ability to qualify for the PERS service. *"Montana State Plan Community First Choice 1915(k) services provide PERS under State Plan, a waiver PERS device would be available to waiver members only if the State Plan PERS does not meet the member's individual need."*

Determination: The BSW Waiver application would need to be amended to reflect the more restrictive language.

4. HCBS 728 Residential Habilitation policy (Page 4) **Determination:** The language would need to be amended to reflect the more restrictive language.

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Recommendation: There is a possibility that members may not have all their needs met under Residential Habilitation or Community First Choice in regards to PERS. This would necessitate BSW providing PERS to those individuals. PERS-like systems in ALFs are different than the standard PERS devices and although they provide a way to summon help inside the ALF, they may not meet the needs of members who may be outside the facility. Recommendation is that the language be modified to reflect the Waiver Application language so that needs not met by CFC or Res. Hab. services can be met by BSW.

Supporting Documentation:

Administrative Rule 37.40.1486 HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR ELDERLY AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED PERSONS: PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS, REQUIREMENTS

(1) A personal emergency response system is an electronic device or mechanical system used to summon assistance in an emergency.

(2) A personal emergency response system must be connected to a local emergency response unit with the capacity to activate emergency medical personnel.

(3) The provision of a personal emergency response system as a service does not include the purchase, installation or routine monthly charges of a telephone.

History: Sec. [53-2-201](#), [53-6-101](#), [53-6-113](#) and [53-6-402](#), MCA; IMP, Sec. [53-2-201](#), [53-6-101](#), [53-6-141](#) and [53-6-402](#), MCA; NEW, 1983 MAR p. 863, Eff. 7/15/83; AMD, 1986 MAR p. 2094, Eff. 1/1/87; AMD, 1988 MAR p. 1268, Eff. 7/1/88; AMD, 1991 MAR p. 470, Eff. 12/14/90; TRANS & AMD, from SRS, 2000 MAR p. 2023, Eff. 7/28/00.

Waiver Technical Guide pg. 177

6. Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Core Service Definition

PERS is an electronic device that enables waiver participants to secure help in an emergency. The participant may also wear a portable "help" button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the participant's phone and programmed to signal a response center once a "help" button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals, as specified herein.

Instructions

- *Supplement or modify the core definition as appropriate to reflect the specific covered devices and services under the waiver.*
- *If installation, upkeep and maintenance of devices/systems are provided, include a statement to that effect in the definition. The cost estimates and claiming for this activity would need to be itemized separately in Appendix J as a cost component of the service.*

Application for 1915 c HCBS Waiver: Draft MT> 010.06.04-Jan 27, 2021

- *The Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic, telephonic or mechanical system used to summon assistance in event of an emergency. The system must alert medical professionals, support staff or other designated individuals to respond to a member's emergency. Montana State Plan Community First Choice 1915(k) services provide PERS under State Plan, a waiver PERS device would be available to waiver members only if the State Plan PERS does not meet the member's individual need.*
- *Reimbursement is not available for the purchase, installation or routine monthly charges of a telephone or cell phone.*