



From the TMG Information Center:

Update Regarding the 40-Hour Health and Safety Assurance Policy

Updated August 16, 2016

Question:

I've heard about a new "40 Hour Work Week" limit for my IRIS employees. Can you explain?

Update:

On August 8, 2016, the Department of Health Services updated the transition timeline as follows:

This policy change will allow for a transition time in order to give current IRIS participants time to make adjustments to their Plan and find new care providers, if they currently receive care in excess of 40 hours per week from one caregiver. The transition must be completed no later than 10/15/16. A participant who fails to take the actions necessary to bring her/his Plan in compliance will be disenrolled from the program. For participants whose plan is not in compliance by October 15, 2016, a notice of IRIS program disenrollment will be sent in mid-November, with IRIS program participation ending for those unable to come into compliance on or before 12/31/16.

Answer:

In short, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) wants to make sure that participant hired workers are providing high quality, safe care to people, and are not working so many hours that they become burnt out or over-tired.

DHS has released a policy and work instructions that create a 40-hour per week work limit for each participant hired worker. There may be exceptions granted for individual workers to provide up to 50 hours of care per week. People with workers who are currently providing more than 40 hours of support per week will have a transition period ending October 15, 2016 to find additional workers, hire agencies, or make other arrangements to ensure their plans align with the policy.

You can connect with your TMG IRIS Consultant to learn if this change will impact you and what steps you might take to continue on the path to meet your goals.

Additional Resources on this Topic:

- [Department of Health Services IRIS Policy Manual \(Chapter 4\)](#)
- [Department of Health Services IRIS Policy Manual Work Instructions](#)
- [Department of Health Services 40-Hour Health and Safety Assurance Policy](#)

**This FAQ is based on information that was available from the Department of Health Services on August 16, 2016.*