



IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care Basics

What is IRIS self-directed personal care?

IRIS Self-directed Personal Care (SDPC) is an option for self-direction that is available only to participants in the IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) waiver program. This option is available under a Medicaid state plan amendment which allows states to provide participants with greater control over their personal care services and providers. If you are already in IRIS or choose to participate in IRIS and meet the criteria for Medicaid personal care, you will have a choice between IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care (SDPC) and agency-based personal care through your Medicaid ForwardHealth card called Medical Assistance Personal Care (MAPC). Personal care is included in the Family Care benefit plan, so this paper does not apply to managed care organization members.

What is the difference between personal care and supportive home care?

Personal care is hands on assistance with certain tasks known as activities of daily living. These include: bathing, dressing, grooming, eating, mobility, toileting, transferring and range of motion exercises. Personal care workers may also do limited housekeeping tasks related to the activities of daily living, shop for groceries, accompany the participant to medical appointments and assist with some more medically oriented tasks such as medication assistance, glucometer readings, or care of catheter sites if authorized by the SDPC RN.

Supportive home care is an IRIS waiver service that includes supervision and monitoring, assistance with general household tasks such as laundry, vacuuming and yard work and other assistance in the participant's home and community such as assistance with errands or accompanying the participant on outings. Supportive home care can complement personal care services in instances where personal care is not allowable or available. Medicaid rules require participants to use state plan services like personal care first before using supportive home care.

What are the benefits of IRIS SDPC?

You will need to assess the benefits of IRIS SDPC in your own situation. If you are satisfied with the services of your current personal care agency provider, you may continue to receive personal care just as you do now. IRIS SDPC provides an option that may better meet your preferences and enable you to more efficiently meet your needs. As an IRIS participant, you have a choice and you can make a different choice at any time

If you choose IRIS SDPC:

- You will be able to manage a separate personal care budget that is in addition to your IRIS budget.
- Your separate IRIS SDPC budget will be determined using the same Personal Care Screening Tool used for agency-based personal care. The IRIS SDPC budget may only be used for personal care or certain other related purchases.



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- You will be able to hire supervise, manage and fire your personal care workers in the same ways you currently manage your IRIS workers.
- You will have flexibility to coordinate personal care with supportive home care, transportation and other services.
- You may use your IRIS self-directed personal care budget in community settings outside the home.
- You may hire family members, including a spouse, to provide personal care.
- You may choose a representative if you are unable to direct your IRIS self-directed personal care services without assistance.

Will a nurse be involved in my personal care when I choose IRIS SDPC?

The Wisconsin law requiring that a nurse participate in the development of each personal care plan applies to IRIS SDPC. The IRIS SDPC Oversight Agency will provide a nurse who will help you to develop an IRIS SDPC care plan that is integrated with your IRIS plan in a way that meets your needs and preferences. The care plan will be developed using a person-centered process that builds on your preferences, choices and abilities and can involve other individuals of your choosing. On-going nurse support will be available to the extent that it is needed to ensure health and safety. The IRIS nurse will reassess your needs that determines your budget at least annually and more often if your condition changes.

Are there any limitations on IRIS SDPC?

The following limitations or conditions apply to IRIS SDPC:

- IRIS SDPC is not available if you are living in a group residential setting such as an adult family home, community-based residential facility or residential care apartment complex unless the provider is also a relative.
- Your representative for purposes of IRIS SDPC cannot also be a provider of your personal care.

You may not participate in both agency-based personal care through your Medicaid ForwardHealth card and IRIS SDPC at the same time. You may choose to transfer between the two options and your current plan will continue until your new plan begins.

You may contact the **IRIS Call Center at 1-888-515-4747** for more information on IRIS Self Directed Personal Care.