

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services Consumer Directed (CD) Services Personal Care

Fact Sheet on COVID-19 Flexibilities- 2020

COVID-19 Virus Impact

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) has worked closely with stakeholders to develop flexibilities that are now available to support personal care providers during the public health emergency presented by COVID-19. The flexibilities include specific items related to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers, including the Developmental Disability Waivers and the Commonwealth Coordinated Care Plus Waiver.

Temporary Consumer-Directed (CD) Program Flexibilities:

Effective April 20, 2020, legally responsible individuals (parents of children under age 18 and spouses) may temporarily provide personal care/personal assistance services and be paid for those services during the emergency period. All paid aides or attendants must comply with all other existing program requirements.

Impacted Populations

Consumer-Directed Medicaid members, Personal Care Attendants, and current or existing Employers of Record.

Roles and Responsibilities

Personal Care Attendant (PCA)

- Provides personal care or supports for the waiver individual.
- Is hired by the EOR to provide CD personal assistance
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Has skills to perform services specified in the member's plan of care
- Has basic math, reading and writing skills
- Has a valid social security number and is authorized to work in the United States
- Successfully passes background checks:
 - VA State Police - Criminal
 - VA Dept. of Social Services Child
 - Protective Services –Central Registry

Employer of Record (EOR)

- Recruits, interviews, hires, trains, directs and supervises all attendants
- Fires an attendant, if necessary
- Makes schedules and tasks to be completed by each attendant
- Manages and evaluates the work of each attendant
- Keeps track of the services provided by the attendant
- Establishes a system for signing and submitting timesheets



Service Limitations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, an attendant may:

- Be the spouse of the individual receiving services
- Be the parent or step-parent of a minor child receiving services

An Attendant may not:

- Be the designated EOR directing care for the individual receiving services

Enrollment Process

To enroll as a temporary personal care attendant, please contact your associated fiscal employer agent using the information below.

ACES\$	800-344-7211	https://www.mycil.org/aces/aces-virginia/
CDCN	888-444-8182	https://www.consumerdirectva.com/
PPL	833-549-5672	http://publicpartnerships.com/programs/virginia

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I become the temporary attendant for my spouse or minor child?

All temporary attendants must complete enrollment documents through their current fiscal employer agent ACES\$, Consumer Direct Care Network (CDCN), or Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL).

Can parents of minor children and spouses be paid for consumer-directed personal care, respite care, and companion care services?

Temporary attendants can be paid to provide personal care services. They cannot provide respite or companion care services.

Will I be able to be a permanent attendant for my minor child or spouse?

No, this program change is in response to the COVID-19 emergency and is temporary. Parents and spouses are temporary workers and will not receive pay once this health emergency is over.

Are personal care attendants able to apply for unemployment benefits?

Yes. Please contact the Virginia Employment Commission for questions related to eligibility for unemployment benefits. (<https://www.vec.virginia.gov/>)

More Resources

Medicaid members with additional questions about the consumer direction program may contact their services facilitator for further assistance.

For more information about DMAS and the response to COVID-19, please visit www.dmas.virginia.gov.