

## **PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM (PERS)**

**Definition:** PERS is an electronic device that enables participants at high risk of institutionalization to secure help in an emergency. The participant may wear a portable “help” button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the person’s phone and programmed to signal a response center once a “help” button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals. PERS services are limited to those participants who live alone, or are alone in their own home for three or more hours of the day/night, and who would otherwise require supervision.

**Providers:** PERS services are provided by companies who are enrolled with SCDHHS as PERS providers.

**Arranging for and Authorizing Services:** Participants assessed to meet the need for PERS must be alone for at least three (3) or more hours per day, three (3) or more days per week and otherwise require routine supervision. Once it is determined that PERS is needed, the need must be documented in the participant’s Support Plan. The Support Plan must clearly indicate that the participant needs help should an emergency situation occur and that he/she lives alone or is alone for three or more hours of the day or night. You must offer a choice of providers and document that offering in the participant’s file. The service request will be reviewed by the SCDDSN Waiver Administration Division. To initiate the service following approval by the Waiver Administration Division, an electronic authorization must be completed and submitted to the chosen. Ongoing services must be authorized annually at the time of the Support Plan, and as changes are made to the service throughout the plan year.

The service must be Direct-billed to SCDHHS. This must be indicated on the authorization.

### **Notes:**

- The **installation** of PERS will be authorized as a one-time service. PERS **monitoring** will be authorized as a monthly service.
- The waiver will not be responsible for funding any needed telephone or telephone services solely in order to provide the PERS.
- The PERS service is intended for the benefit of the waiver participant, not the general household. If the waiver participant relocates or dies, you must notify the provider.

**Monitoring Services:** You must monitor the service for effectiveness, usefulness and participant satisfaction. Monitoring may be completed with the participant, representative, service providers, or other relevant entities. Information gathered during monitoring may lead to a change in the service, such as a change of provider, change to a more appropriate service, etc. DDSN recommends that the Waiver Case Manager monitors this service when it begins and as changes are made.

Monitoring must be conducted as frequently as necessary in order to ensure:

- the health, safety and well-being of the participant;
- the service adequately addresses the needs of the participant;
- the service is being furnished by the chosen provider in accordance with the authorization, relevant policies and quality expectations;
- the participant/representative is satisfied with their chosen provider/s.

Include the following questions during your monitoring:

- ❖ Is the participant receiving PERS services as authorized?
- ❖ Has the participant used the PERS since your last contact? If so, what was the response from the PERS provider?
- ❖ Does the participant continue to be left alone at home for significant periods of time (i.e. 3 or more hours per day, 3 or more days per week)?
- ❖ Does the service need to continue?
- ❖ Is the participant pleased with the service being provided, or is assistance needed in obtaining a new provider?

**Reduction, Suspension or Termination of Services:** If services are to be reduced, suspended or terminated, a written notice must be sent to the participant/representative including the details regarding the change(s) in service, the allowance for appeal, and a ten (10) calendar day waiting period (from the date that the reduction/suspension/termination form is completed and sent to the participant/legal guardian) before the reduction, suspension or termination of the waiver service(s) takes effect. See *Chapter 8* for specific details and procedures.