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Department of Health Care Services



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CCT GL #15-009

Date: November 9, 2015

To: CCT Program Director

Subject: Allowability of Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) for California Community Transitions (CCT) Participants under the CCT Demonstration

PURPOSE

This CCT Guidance Letter (GL) provides additional information on securing PERS for eligible CCT Participants, and includes information on reimbursement limitations under CCT.

BACKGROUND

PERS, also known as Medical Emergency Response Systems,¹ allow individuals to signal for help in an emergency using a transmitter; an auto-dial device connected to the user's telephone; to contact emergency response professionals who are able to request immediate assistance from the appropriate responder, when necessary. Because PERS offer individuals an immediate resource in case of medical incidents, these systems can help people with medical need(s) feel more secure living in the community. All systems provide medical emergency monitoring and response services, and some systems provide additional protection in the case of an unseen emergency or critical situation; such as fire, home invasion, and domestic accidents when it may not be possible to access or communicate with a phone in a safe, secure manner.² PERS are a resource that can be utilized to enhance the individual's 24/7 backup plan addressed in [CCT Policy Letter 15-001](#).

¹ <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0316-personal-emergency-response-systems-health-information-older-people>

² <http://www.consumersadvocate.org/medical-alerts/personal-emergency-response-systems>

GUIDANCE

The cost for most PERS includes installation, equipment, and a monthly service fee. Under the CCT demonstration, the costs are reimbursable within the 365-day demonstration period when a system is determined to be medically necessary for an individual to transition to the community. However, to comply with the terms of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) federal grant, the State must assure **continuity of care** for individuals after the demonstration period has ended. Therefore CCT is only able to pay for PERS when it is determined that a PERS is necessary to meet an individual's medical needs in the community, **AND** there is a way to continue to pay for the services through Home and Community-Based (HCB) Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) available to the individual at the end of the demonstration period.

Other HCBS programs/resources that may continue to cover the cost of the monthly monitoring charge after the demonstration period completes, include:

- Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)
- Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital (NF/AH) Waiver
- Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan
- Private participant resources

When submitting a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) for reimbursement of the PERS cost, CCT Lead Organizations must indicate how the service will be continued beyond the first year. Failure to submit the required information may result in a denial of the TAR.

QUESTIONS

For further questions about this GL, please contact Karli Holkko, at (916) 322-5253, or by e-mail at: karli.holkko@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

(Originally signed by)

Rebecca Schupp, Chief
Long-Term Care Division