



Wisconsin's Self-Directed Supports Program

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for your interest in IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care. This option is available to IRIS Participants who require hands-on assistance with daily care needs and who are eligible for Medicaid Personal Care.

You are on the referral list to be seen by an IRIS registered nurse. The nurse will call you and set up a time to meet with you in your home and ask detailed questions about your needs for personal care. This information will be used to confirm your eligibility for Self-Directed Personal Care, set the number of personal care hours you may receive and help develop your person-centered plan of care.

Important: If you already receive personal care from an agency, please keep your current agency provider until after your Self-Directed Personal Care starts.

There are three informational documents included with this letter:

1. IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care Basics
2. IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care Fact Sheet
3. IRIS Self Directed Personal Care Answers to Questions

Please review the enclosed information. If you have any questions on IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care, please contact us by phone at 1-888-515-4747 or by email at info@Wisconsin-IRIS.com.

Sincerely,

IRIS Consultant Agency

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IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care Basics

What is IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care?

IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care 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 (IRIS SDPC) and agency-based personal care through your Medicaid ForwardHealth card. 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 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.

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.
- You will be able to hire, supervise, manage and fire your personal care workers in the same ways you currently manage your IRIS workers: IRIS Financial Service Agency as your employer agent or by using a co-employment vendor.
- 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 use your IRIS self-directed personal care budget to purchase certain items that increase independence or substitute for human assistance (for example, a lift chair that will allow you to transfer without assistance).
- 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 Consultant Agency will provide a nurse who will help you to develop an IRIS SDPC service plan that is integrated with your IRIS plan in a way that meets your needs and preferences. The service 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, but at a minimum annually. The IRIS nurse will redo the screen 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 Consultant Agency at 1-888-515-4747** for more information on IRIS Self Directed Personal Care.

IRIS Self Directed Personal Care Fact Sheet

- ❖ IRIS Self Directed Personal Care is available only to individuals who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid Personal Care Provider Agency personal care services.
- ❖ IRIS Self Directed Personal Care funds are separate from the IRIS allocation amount. These are two distinct funding sources with individual budget amounts.
- ❖ The Personal Care Screening Tool determines the budgeted amount available for IRIS Self Directed Personal Care services. IRIS Self Directed Personal Care funds can only be used to purchase Self Directed Personal Care services.
- ❖ IRIS participants are not required to choose the IRIS Self Directed (SDPC) Personal Care option. People continue to have the ability to receive their Medicaid Personal Care services through a provider agency.
- ❖ People can choose to self-direct their personal care services at any point in time. It is not a onetime offer. People can choose to participate or discontinue participation at any point in time.
- ❖ People cannot be in both IRIS Self Directed Personal Care and agency based Medicaid Personal Care at the same time.
- ❖ Personal Care services covered through IRIS Self Directed Personal Care must be utilized before IRIS allocation funding can be used to purchase similar services.
- ❖ If the IRIS participant has a cost share, the services provided through IRIS Self Directed Personal Care are not required to be assessed this cost share.
- ❖ A participant in IRIS Self Directed Personal Care may hire a spouse or other relative to provide care.
- ❖ IRIS Self Directed Personal Care may be provided to an individual outside of the individual's home, for example: at a worksite, at a community event, etc.
- ❖ People living in "a home or property that is owned, operated, or controlled by a provider of services, not related by blood or marriage" may not choose the IRIS Self Directed Personal Care option. Medicaid Personal Care Provider Agency personal care services continue to be available to persons without regard to ownership of the home or property.
- ❖ If the IRIS participant has a guardian or representative who is acting as the person's representative for purposes of SDPC, the guardian or representative cannot be a paid provider of that individual's IRIS Self Directed Personal Care.

IRIS Self Directed Personal Care Questions & Answers

Am I required to participate in the IRIS Self Directed Personal Care Program?

You are not required to choose the IRIS Self Directed (SD) Personal Care option. You continue to have the ability to receive your Medicaid Personal Care services through a Medicaid Personal Care Agency if that is your choice.

Does the cost for my IRIS Self Directed Personal Care services come out of my IRIS allocation?

No, IRIS Self Directed Personal Care has its own distinct budget that is separate from your IRIS allocation. If you choose this option your IRIS plan will include a separate section that identifies how you plan to use the IRIS Self Directed Personal Care funding.

Can I be in both IRIS Self Directed Personal Care and Medicaid Provider Agency-based personal care at the same time?

No, you cannot participate in both IRIS Self Directed Personal Care and agency based Medicaid Personal Care at the same time but you may change between the two options if you desire.

Can I pay my representative to provide my IRIS Self Directed Personal Care?

If you have a representative who directs your IRIS Self Directed Personal Care, that representative may not also be your IRIS Self Directed Personal Care provider.

Can I receive IRIS Self Directed Personal Care where I work?

Yes, you may receive your IRIS Self Directed Personal Care at your workplace or in other places in the community. IRIS Self Directed Personal Care is not restricted to your home.

Do I have to make a choice to self-direct my personal care right now or can I choose to do this at some later date?

You can choose to self-direct your personal care services at any point in time. This is not a onetime offer. You can choose to participate or discontinue participation at any point in time. You may also have the flexibility you need by using a Medicaid Personal Care Provider Agency.

Do my IRIS Self Directed Personal Care service costs get considered with any cost share I may have?

If you have a Medicaid cost share, the services provided through IRIS Self Directed Personal Care are not required to be assessed this cost share.

Can I use a co-employer agency to staff my IRIS Self Directed Personal Care?

Yes, you may use a co-employer to manage aspects of your IRIS Self Directed Personal Care. In doing so however, your allocation would not be increased to pay agency fees charged when using the co-employer model.

Can I waive my required 50-60 day nurse visits?

If your SDPC nurse and physician agree, you may request to waive the required 50-60 day nurse visits. You can request to be visited by a SDPC nurse on a quarterly or semi-annual basis instead.

Can I live in a substitute care facility or adult family home and still choose the IRIS Self Directed Personal Care Option?

People living in “a home or property that is owned, operated, or controlled by a provider of services, not related by blood or marriage” cannot choose the IRIS Self Directed Personal Care option, however, individuals in such facilities may be eligible for Medicaid Provider Agency Personal Care services.

Can I pay my spouse to provide my IRIS Self Directed Personal Care services?

Yes, you are able to hire your spouse if he or she is not your representative for IRIS Self Directed Personal Care.