

# MEDICAID FUNDED HOME CARE PROGRAMS



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## Medicaid Funded Home Care Programs

The Rensselaer County Department of Social Services offers a variety of home care programs. To receive services under any of these programs, you must first be eligible for and in receipt of medical assistance (Medicaid). You must apply for Medicaid through your local department of social services. In Rensselaer County the phone number to call to request an application is 270-3928.

# Home Care Programs

## Goals

- Assist individuals in remaining independent and self sufficient
- Maintain individuals in the community safely
- Assist and support informal caregivers (not replace them)

## **General Eligibility**

- Reside in the county
- Reside in your own home or the home of another
- Under certain circumstances, reside in an adult home or other non-medicaid funded group home
- Have a physician who will certify medical necessity for home care services
- Have a stable medical condition
- Agree to receive services

## General Process

- A referral be made to the Home Care Unit by the client, family member, MD office, hospital, nursing home, or other community agencies. Prospective clients must want and agree to the services to be provided.
- Physician Order form sent to MD for medical necessity certification.
- Upon receipt of completed Physician order form, joint assessment of client by Home Care Unit caseworker and a nurse from a certified home health agency will be conducted.
- Determination of scope, frequency and duration of services by caseworker and nurse.
- Referral to contract agencies for services requested.
- Periodic monitoring of services provided.
- Reassessment of need every 3-6 months depending on program.

## Personal Care Aide Program

Personal care aides provide assistance with routine activities of daily living: bathing, dressing, toileting, walking, transferring and feeding. Personal care aides may also assist a client with meal preparation, grocery shopping and incidental light housekeeping tasks if there is no one else available to assist. Supervision only, companionship, transportation, and socialization are not personal care aide tasks. Hours of service authorized are based on the time needed to complete the tasks identified on the individual's plan of care. There are no age restrictions on this program.

## Consumer Directed Personal Care Assistant Program (CDPAP)

Under this program the client becomes the consumer. As such, he or she assumes the responsibility of recruiting, hiring, training, supervising and if necessary firing the caregiver. The caregiver under this program may provide

services ranging from personal care aide tasks through RN skills as directed by the client. This program allows the client maximum independence in determining who and when care will be provided. There are no age restrictions on this program.

#### Long Term Home Health Care Program (LTHHCP)

A coordinated package of home care services with case management provided by an RN for individuals who otherwise require or qualify for residential home care level (nursing home). There is a monthly cap on the amount of Medicaid dollars which can be expended on an individual's plan of care. All Medicaid funded services are included in the cap. The cap is 75% of the average nursing home cost in the county. This is a jointly administered program between the RCDSS and the Eddy Visiting Nurse Association or the Visiting Nurse Association of Albany-Rensselaer-Saratoga. Services available under this program include skilled nursing, home health aide, personal care aide, speech, physical and/or occupational therapies. Also under this program are services not traditionally available under Medicaid. These are called waiver services and include: nutrition, MSW, respiratory therapy, lifeline, social day care, and transportation, home maintenance, home improvement, moving assistance and respite. There are no age restrictions on this program.

#### Managed Long Term Care Program (MLTC)

Provides health and long-term care services to Managed Care Medicaid clients with chronic illness or disabilities, to better address their needs and to prevent or delay nursing home placement. Services include but are not limited to nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology, medical equipment and supplies, podiatry, dentistry, optometry, respiratory therapy, transportation and social day care.

#### **Who is Eligible?**

This program is available to Medicaid recipients who are eligible for admission to nursing homes.

Those enrolled with Senior Whole Health or Fidelis Care Managed Care Medicaid.

Those who are eligible for Medicare & Medicaid.

#### Aides Home Care Program (AHCP)

A long term home health care program for individuals diagnosed with AIDS or HIV. There is no cap on this program. Same providers as the LTHHCP. There are no age restrictions on this program.

#### Care at Home

A similar type long term home health care program for children

only. Special circumstances apply. Newborn to 18 years.

#### Private Duty Nursing

Generally the nursing needs of the community are met by certified home health agencies designated to operate in the community, ie: Eddy Visiting Nurse Association; VNA-Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga; Seton Home Care and St. Peter's Hospital Home Care. However, if the intermittent nursing services provided by the certified home health agencies cannot meet the skilled nursing needs of the individual, he/she may be assessed for private duty LPN or RN services. Prior approval for private duty nursing services by the New York State Department of Health is required. There are no age restrictions on this program.

Note: Home care services are not guaranteed. Services authorized may not be available. Clients who cannot manage without care must have back up plans in place to assure their safety.

#### Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) (Lifeline)

PERS service must be part of a home care plan in order for Medicaid to pay for it. It is not a stand alone service. It may be provided as part of the Long Term Home Health Care Program or the Aids Home Care Program. It may also be provided along with personal care aide services provided it will reduce the number of aide hours needed or will make it unnecessary to increase aide hours.

#### Assisted Living Program (ALP)

An ALP is an adult home with a home care Component added. The home care component provides additional service beyond that provided by an adult home. The additional services may include personal care services, home health aide, skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical day care, lifeline and medical supplies and equipment not requiring prior approval. This level of care is above adult home and designed for those medically eligible for nursing home placement but who don't need the highly structured medical environment of a residential health care facility.

There are two Medicaid certified ALP's in Rensselaer County

The Danforth Adult Care Center

Heartwood Terrace

Medicaid pays only for the home care component not room and board. Room and board is paid privately or by SSI (supplemental security income) if the individual qualifies.