

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Definition: A Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device that enables someone to secure help in an emergency. The participant may wear a portable “help” button. The system is connected to the person’s telephone 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 who live alone, or those who are alone in their own home for three or more hours of the day/night, and who could be alone with a PERS but otherwise require supervision.

Providers: Companies listed as providers for Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are located on the Qualified Provider Listing found on DDSN’s website.

Arranging for and Authorizing Services: To receive this service the participant must have a working telephone. The cost covered by this service is limited to the cost for the PERS; it does not include costs for the telephone service. A participant will be assessed to need a PERS when he/she will be alone for three (3) or more hours per day, three (3) or more days per week and otherwise require direct supervision. The participant must also be determined to be capable of using the system if installed.

Once it is determined that PERS is needed, the need must be documented in the participant’s plan. A choice of providers must be offered and the offering of the choice documented. Once a provider is chosen, the budget information can be entered using the State Funded Community Supports Budget Calculator. The **installation** of PERS will be budgeted as a **one-time service**. The ongoing availability of the PERS called “**monitoring**” will be budgeted as a monthly service. Under no circumstances may the annual cost limit of the State Funded Community Supports be exceeded.

Upon approval from DDSN, the ***SFCS Authorization (Other Services-DDSN Billed)*** must be used to authorize the service. The authorization instructs the provider to bill DDSN for services rendered. See billing procedures in the SFCS Manual, section 7 for additional information. The ***SFCS Authorization (Other Services-DDSN Billed)*** will remain in effect until a new authorization is issued or a ***Notice of Reduction or Termination Form (SFCS Form 4)*** is issued.

Monitoring: The plan, which includes PERS, must be monitored in accordance with DDSN Case Management Standards.

Reduction or Termination of Services: When PERS is terminated, the Notice of Reduction or Termination (SFCS Form 4) must be used to notify the participant/representative, the provider and DDSN-SURB. See SFCS Manual, section 6 for additional information.