**Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program**

**(CDPAP)**

**What is CDPAP?**

The **Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP)** is a New York State Medicaid program that allows consumers to recruit, hire, and direct their own home care workers. One of the highlights of the program is that it allows consumers to hire family members and friends.

**Who Can Use the Program?**

**To be eligible for CDPAP, an individual must be eligible for:**

• Medicaid

• Home care services

• Be self-directing or have a self-directing adult who is willing and competent to assume the program’s roles and responsibilities.

**The definition of self-directing is:**

“The consumer or surrogate is self-directing as stated in the following definition:

• Has the desire and ability to make life style choices;

• Has the ability to organize the environment to implement those choices and;

• Has the capability to understand the consequences of those actions and willingness to take responsibility for them.”

**How do you sign up?**

Anyone who is Medicaid eligible and interested in the program should contact his/her local county Department of Social Services (DSS).

A caseworker and nurse will evaluate you to make sure that you are right for the program.

Fiscal intermediaries do not evaluate initial or ongoing program eligibility.

Once you have been approved the county will refer your case to a fiscal intermediary. Once the FI receives the referral the company will contact you!

**Differences Between CDPAP and “Traditional” Health Care**

Traditional home care programs have what are called “levels.” There are certain tasks that a “homemaker” may provide, others that a “personal care aide” can provide, others a “home health aide” can provide, others a “Licensed Practical Nurse” or “Registered Nurse” can provide. CDPAP, on the other hand, has one level of employee – the personal assistant (PA).

**What makes the two programs very different are:** 1. who selects the PA;

2. who trains the PA and how the PA is trained;

3. who supervises the PA;

4. how the tasks are done;

5. who terminates the PA (if the employment relationship isn’t working.)

Since you, the consumer, assume employer responsibilities, (to recruit, hire, train, supervise and terminate) the rules shift a bit. Instead of a nurse from an agency, you are the one who is directing your “Plan of Care” that was developed by the county caseworker and nurse who performed your program assessment.

Your authorized hours are based on this plan and it is your county caseworker who has the authority to approve how many hours can be paid, per week, to personal assistants who you must find (recruit) and hire.

You may be able to legally train your personal assistant to do tasks that a nurse would have to do under traditional home health care programs.

This is possible because:

1) you are training and supervising the personal assistant to perform a task in the way that you want it done,

2) there is an amendment to the Nurse Practice Act that legally allows “non-nurses” in this program to perform “nursing” tasks because you are training and supervising your PA.

For complete information visit:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/publications/adm/11adm6.htm>

**For Western New York 8 county area:**

### Allegany

County Office Building  
7 Court St.  
Belmont, NY 14813-1077

Phone: (585) 268-9622   
Website: <http://www.alleganyco.com/departments/social-services/>

### Cattaraugus

One Leo Moss Drive, Suite 6010  
Olean, NY 14760-1158

Phone: (716) 373-8065   
Website: <http://www.cattco.org/social-services/social-services>

### Chautauqua

Hall R. Clothier Building  
Mayville, NY 14757

Phone: (716) 753-4590   
Website: <http://chautauqua.ny.us/>

### Erie

Rath County Office Building  
95 Franklin Street, 8th Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202-3959

Phone: (716) 858-8000   
Website: <http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices/>

### Genesee

5130 East Main Street, Suite #3  
Batavia, NY 14020-3497

Phone: (585) 344-2580   
Website: [http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/socialservic **…**](http://www.co.genesee.ny.us/departments/socialservices/index.php)

### Niagara

20 East Avenue  
P.O. Box 506  
Lockport, NY 14095-0506

Phone: (716) 439-7600   
Website: <http://www.niagaracounty.com/socialservices/>

### Orleans

14016 Route 31 West  
Albion, NY 14411-9365

Phone: (585) 589-7000   
Website: <http://orleansny.com/SocialServices>

### Wyoming

466 North Main Street  
Warsaw, NY 14569-1080

Phone: (585) 786-8900   
Website: <http://www.wyomingco.net/205/Social-Services>