

	Addictive and Mental Disorders Division Severe and Disabling Mental Illness, Home and Community Based Services Waiver Manual
	Date effective: July 1, 2020 Date revised:
Policy Number: <i>SDMI HCBS 365</i>	Subject: Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Definition

A Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device used to secure assistance in an emergency situation to allow a member to gain greater independence.

Determination of Need

- (1) The service is limited to members who live alone or who are alone for significant parts of the day and have no regular caretaker for extended periods of time.
- (2) Member must require extensive routine supervision.

Provider Requirements

- (1) PERS must be connected to an emergency response unit with the capacity to activate emergency personnel.
- (2) The response center must be staffed by trained professionals and must follow all state and federal labor laws.

Service Requirements

- (1) The system must be connected to the member's phone and programmed to signal a response center once the help button is activated.
- (2) The member may choose to wear a portable help button to allow for increased independence and mobility.
- (3) The provision of a PERS does not include the purchase, installation, or routine monthly charges of a telephone.

Utilization

- (1) PERS is based on the member's assessed need and are limited to additional services not otherwise covered under Medicaid state plan.
- (2) PERS must be prior authorized by the department or their designee.