

What is Medical Assistance?

Medical Assistance is a publicly-funded health care program. It is called Medical Assistance in Minnesota and Medicaid in many other states. Medical Assistance pays for many different medically related services. There are also programs available through Medical Assistance that provide greater flexibility and freedom of choice in service selection. This Arc Guide explains some of the most commonly used Medical Assistance services and programs.

What are some of the services Medical Assistance will pay for?

Standard Health Insurance Services: Medical Assistance covers the services that private insurance providers typically cover—medical bills, prescriptions, hospitalizations.

Crisis Services: Available for medical and behavioral needs. Crisis services are short-term services provided for relief/support of a caregiver and/or protection of a person with a disability.

Occupational Therapy: Occupational therapy helps people perform their activities of daily living. Occupational therapy focuses more on fine motor activities while physical therapy is more focused on gross motor. Occupational therapy also looks at sensory needs.

Personal Care Attendant Services: A PCA is an individual who provides assistance to a person with a disability in their home and community. Assessments for eligibility and level of care are completed by Public Health nurses and are supervised by a registered nurse. Services include assistance with activities of daily living—such as eating, dressing, toileting, etc.

Physical Therapy: Physical therapy helps improve movement and function, reduce pain and increase independence.

Private Duty Nursing: Medically necessary nursing services provided in the individual's home.

Speech Therapy: Speech therapy focuses on the evaluation and treatment of disorders of speech, language, cognition and swallowing.

What are some of the program available through Medical Assistance that provide more flexibility?

Family Support Grant: Available for people age 18 and under. It provides services and supports to prevent or delay out of home placement.

Consumer Support Grant: This provides supports and services to prevent or delay out of home placement. This grant was designed to provide services to people who need a waiver but can't get one because no waiver slots are available.

DD (Developmental Disabilities Waiver [Formerly MR/RC Mental Retardation – Related Conditions]) : Use of funds for home and community-based services as an alternative to institutional care (ICF-MR care).

TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) Waiver: Use of funds for home and community-based services for persons under age 65 with a brain injury who are experiencing significant cognitive and behavioral deficits and who require the level of care in either a specialized nursing facility or a neurobehavioral hospital.

CADI (Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals) Waiver: Use of funds for home and community-based services for chronically ill and disabled persons under age 65 who require nursing home level of care.

CAC (Community Alternative Care) Waiver: Use of funds for home and community-based services for chronically ill and disabled persons under age 65 who require acute care (hospital) level of care.

EW (Elderly Waiver): Use of funds for home and community-based services for people age 65 and older who are eligible for Medical Assistance and require nursing home level of care.

For further information or advocacy services, contact Arc Greater Twin Cities at 952-920-0855 or visit www.arcgreatertwincities.org. Tell us what you think about this Arc Guide. Please complete a short survey online at <http://arcgreatertwincities.org/resources.aspx>. Thank you!