



## What to Know About: Differences Between the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) and Personal Care Services (PCS)

**CDPAP and Personal Care Services (PCS) are both Medicaid services that provide home care for individuals who need assistance.** The goals of these programs are the same: to assist consumers with maintaining their independence and remaining in their home. However, the types of services that can be provided and who can provide these services are different.

**Consumers should understand these differences before making a choice between CDPAP and PCS.**

A CDPAP caregiver is called a personal assistant (PA). A PCS caregiver is called a personal care aide (PCA). CDPAP is a “consumer directed” program. This means that there are flexibilities in the kinds of care and services a PA can provide. **If a consumer wants to switch between CDPAP and PCS, they should understand the changes that doing so could have on their care, as well as their caregiver.**

### Changes that could impact YOUR CARE:

- **You may need a new authorization for services,** including a Person-Centered Service Plan and plan of care. Authorization must be addressed before switching between services to prevent a gap in care.
- **Your caregiver may change.** There are different rules about who can serve as a PA and a PCA.
- **How your caregiver is employed and managed may change.** PCAs are selected, employed, managed, and trained by a home care agency. PAs are selected, employed, managed, and trained by you.
- **The tasks your caregiver can assist with may change.** PCAs and PAs follow different rules on the services they can provide. Review these differences before switching to ensure all your needs can be met.

### Changes that could impact YOUR CAREGIVER:

- **Your PCA must meet certain qualifications to be your caregiver** including training, evaluations, and background checks. These qualifications must be met before switching services to prevent gaps in your care.
- **Your caregiver’s employer will change.** A PCA is employed by a home care agency. A PA is employed by you. If you switch between services your caregiver will switch employers. This will impact their pay rate, benefits, and schedule.
- Your PCA is subject to administrative and nursing supervision and may be terminated without your consent.
- Your caregiver may be unable to assist with some tasks such as the self-administration of medications and taking some health measurements.

**PLEASE NOTE:** CDPAP eligibility and services are **NOT** changing as part of the Statewide Fiscal Intermediary (SFI) transition. Consumers who wish to continue using CDPAP can remain enrolled but are required to register with PPL, New York’s SFI. **Questions may be directed to:** [StatewideFI@health.ny.gov](mailto:StatewideFI@health.ny.gov).

For more information visit: [health.ny.gov/CDPAP](https://health.ny.gov/CDPAP).