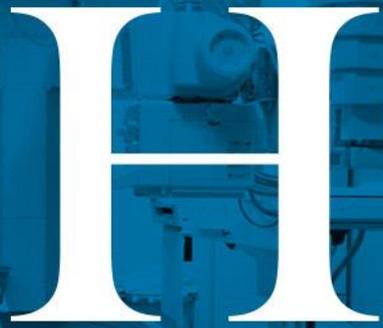


HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

A large white serif letter 'H' centered on a blue-tinted background of a hospital room with medical equipment.A large white serif letter 'M' centered on a green-tinted background of a classical building with columns.A large white serif letter 'A' centered on a dark red-tinted background of a modern office interior.

2/20/2015

Participant Direction

[HealthManagement.com](http://HealthManagement.com)

## Self-Determination and Participant-Direction

- Self-determination is the right to make decisions about our lives. It includes the opportunity for personal decision making, community participation and self-advocacy
- Participant-direction of Medicaid services is one way to exercise self-determination regarding specific Medicaid services

# Participant-Direction in Medicaid

- Participants, or their representatives if applicable, have decision-making authority over certain services: they manage their services with the assistance of a system of available supports.
- The participant-directed (or self-directed) service delivery model is an alternative to traditionally delivered and managed services (such as an agency delivery model).
- Participants manage service delivery in a person-centered planning process.

See: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)  
<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Delivery-Systems/Self-Directed-Services.html>

# Participant-Direction of Medicaid Services

- The person eligible for services, or his or her representative when desired, directs specified services
- Direction means:
  - Budget authority: Exercising decision-making authority and managing an individualized budget for specific services and/or
  - Employer authority: Selecting, hiring and supervising service providers

## Participant-Directed Medicaid Services

- Typically include Medicaid personal care and/or specific home and community-based waiver services
  - States may include limited services or the participant's entire array of HCBS
  - Participants may have the option to purchase some goods and services from retail providers (when this is more economical and efficient)

## Participant Support

- States are required to make specific supports available to the participant, such as:
  - A supports broker/consultant, to support the participant in directing his or her services
  - Financial Management Services (FMS), to help the participant manage his or her participant-directed budget
- Participants receive information, training and ongoing support to manage their services and/or budget

## Supports Broker/Consultant

- Supports the participant with self-direction
  - Provides information and ongoing assistance
  - Helps participant develop individualized budget/purchase plan (does not develop this for the participant)
  - Monitors and reviews expenditures
  - Monitors participant's health and welfare
  - Performs other activities specified by the state

## Financial Management Services (FMS)

- A state-selected FMS entity (or the state) that typically:
  - Receives, tracks, disburses and reports on a participant's funds
  - Completes employer-related activities, such as verifying a worker's citizenship, collecting and processing time sheets, withholding taxes from worker pay, filing taxes and distributing paychecks

## Options for Less Intensive Participant-Direction

- Participants may choose to co-manage employees with an agency provider
- This is called “Agency with Choice”
  - The agency is the employer of record and pays the employee
  - The participant hires, supervises and may terminate the agency-employed worker

## Participant-Direction Offers Choice and Flexibility

- Choose, manage and pay own providers
  - May hire a relative or friend
  - May determine wages for workers you hire directly (but subject to minimum wage requirements)
- Depending on program design, may have access to flexible services or different services
  - Flexible services include services where the participant determines the amount of the service
  - Flexible services may also include participant selection of specific substitute services
    - Flexible services generally don't include services delivered by a licensed professional
  - Participants may be able to accumulate some funds over a 12-month period for a one-time purchase