Participant-Directed Goods and Services (PDGS)

Changes Effective 7/1/22

OAC 5123-9-45
Participant-Directed Goods and Services (PDGS)

- Changes to PDGS rule
- PDGS under the Level 1 waiver
- PDGS Refresher
- Resources and questions
Why Revise the PDGS Rule?

- Increase clarity and reduce confusion
- Simplify the process
- Add PDGS to Level One waiver
PDGS Definition Updated
5123-9-45(B)(8)

- Reflects PDGS is a service of both the Level 1 and Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waivers
- Language revisions shift focus away from “least expensive”
- Language revisions move the focus to the *habilitative* intent of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver services and away from “medical necessity”
- Documentation must clearly link PDGS purchases to an assessed need
- PDGS purchases must be specified in the Individual Service Plan (ISP)
Definition Added:
“Participant-Directed Budget”
OAC 5123-9-45(B)(7)

- Identifies the difference between a person’s annual waiver budget and the portion of that budget that applies to participant-directed services

- Budget Authority offers a person more control over how waiver funding is used for certain services
County Boards are no longer required to have an “established cost-comparison process” and “Review Committee”

Instead

County Boards now have their own review process for PDGS purchases of items that are $500 or more

Certain items will continue to require DODD approval, such as, generators, fences, playsets, home modifications over $10,000, and items available through other waiver services, Medicaid State Plan/Healthchek, or as educational benefits available under the Individual Education Plan (IEP).
**Non-permitted Items Updated**

**Items Not Permitted:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Experimental treatments, including items considered by the federal food and drug administration as experimental or investigational or not approved to treat a specific condition.</th>
<th>New equipment/supplies or repair of previously approved equipment or supplies that have been damaged because of confirmed misuse, abuse, or negligence.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, supplies, and devices of the same type for the same person, unless there is a documented change in the person’s condition that warrants the replacement.</td>
<td>Home modifications of general utility or that add to the total square footage of the home.</td>
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<td>Pools, spas, or saunas</td>
<td>Food, tobacco, or alcohol</td>
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<td>Items used solely for entertainment or recreational purposes.</td>
<td>Items that are illegal or otherwise prohibited through federal or state regulations.</td>
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<td>Internet service</td>
<td>Items of General Utility</td>
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PDGS waiver service added to the Level 1

Beginning 7/1/22, PDGS can be added to a person’s ISP and payment authorized through the Financial Management Service entity (FMS)

Annual cap of $2,500 for PDGS in the Level 1 waiver.

(PDGS in the SELF waiver still has no cap)
PDGS:

- Is a service available through the Level 1 and SELF waivers that promotes independence and inclusion and supports a person to achieve the things they want
- Includes services, equipment, or supplies that are not provided through Medicaid State Plan services/Healthchek or another waiver service
- Can help meet a person’s needs when they do not have personal funds to purchase the item or service, and it is not readily available from another resource
- Links directly in the ISP to a need clearly identified through assessment
- Helps a person directly (not purchased for those providing supports)
- Ensures health and welfare
PDGS is required to do at least one of the following:

- Decrease the need for other Medicaid home and community-based services;
- Advance participation in the community;
- Increase safety at home;
- Increase independence;
- Improve cognitive, social, or behavioral functions; or
- Assist to develop or maintain personal, social, or physical skills
PDGS cannot be a specialized service:

- “Specialized Service” means any program or service designed and operated to serve primarily a person with a developmental disability.

- Programs or services available to the general public are not specialized services.

- If there is a question as to whether Participant-Directed Goods and Services are specialized services, the Director of the DODD may make a determination. The Director's determination is not subject to appeal.
PDGS and Budget Authority:

- Budget Authority is used when a person purchases equipment, services, or supplies under PDGS.
- Through budget authority a person decides how much to spend on certain waiver services.
- Providers of PDGS equipment, services, and supplies are not required to be certified.
- Providers of PDGS cannot charge more than their usual and customary rates.
- PDGS purchases cannot exceed Medicaid guidelines and waiver funding limits.
- Payment for PDGS purchases is made by a Financial Management Service entity (FMS).
Additional Supports

**Resources:**
- PDGS Handout
- PDGS Funnel

To find the newly amended rule, click on the link: Add OAC 5123-9-45 link

Questions about changes can be submitted to: waiverpolicyta@dod.d.ohio.gov