



The Model for Homecare

Empowering consumers to affordably manage their homecare

Typical consumers of homecare services

- Senior citizens
- Disabled individuals of any age
- People of any age suffering long-term illness
- Individuals of any age who need short-term care following an operation or a hospital stay

Two basic options for obtaining homecare

1. Consumer-Directed Care

Consumer-Directed Care is one model of homecare delivery that emphasizes the rights of the client in determining the course of their care. For over fifty years, this model has given clients direct involvement in all aspects of their care including the care plan, the selection of the caregiver, the cost of care, and the type of care consumers receive. Companies associated with this type of service are sometimes referred to as “registries.”

2. Agency-Directed Care

Agency-Directed Care is a model that evolved principally out of the necessity for oversight created by government-funded Medicare and Medicaid programs. In these arrangements, the agency recruits, hires, trains, supervises, disciplines and terminates caregivers, and sets the rates charged to clients and the wage paid to caregivers. As the provider of record, the agency controls all aspects of care including creating or consulting on a plan of treatment, caregiver selection/ dismissal and as a client’s point of contact concerning their care.

Advantages of Consumer-Directed Care

The principal advantages of Consumer-Directed Care are that it provides consumers with greater participation in decisions concerning their care, allows consumers to individually select caregivers, and provides greater continuity in caregiver relationships. Moreover, the Consumer-Directed model of care costs less – clients often save 25% or more on their cost of care. Frequently, this enables clients to receive significantly more care than they would under the Agency-Directed model. For caregivers, the Consumer-Directed model also enables them to earn fair compensation; many experienced caregivers prefer registries over agencies.

Benefits for consumers under Consumer-Directed Care

- Safety - Access to pre-screened caregivers with the skills and/or certifications a consumer needs
- Convenience - Skilled caregivers can be obtained on short notice for short or long-term assignments
- Continuity - Consumers can work with their caregiver indefinitely or discontinue service at any time
- Empowerment - Working with a registry, consumers decide:
 - When the services will be provided
 - Where the services will be provided
 - The type of services that will be provided and at what cost
- Service - Registries are always available to refer a new caregiver at any time

Benefits for government agencies and insurance companies:

- Records management - A central and reliable repository of records for maintaining all caregiver information
- Cost control - A less expensive model for delivering homecare to individuals
- Information dissemination - A single point of contact to reach caregivers and/or consumers
- Tax reporting - Information reporting (Form 1099) where appropriate

For peace of mind . . .

Finding the right caregiver can be a daunting task – particularly in the aftermath of a hospitalization or sudden illness. Creating and placing advertisements for caregivers, performing rounds of interviews, conducting multiple reference checks, completing thorough background checks, and verifying credentials are just some of the steps that a registry will take to ensure you get the right caregiver on a timely basis. In working with a registry, consumers have ready access to quality, pre-screened caregivers at an affordable price.

About the Private Care Association

Since 1978, the Private Care Association (PCA) has been a vocal advocate for quality homecare services. PCA’s members, located around the United States, have provided services to tens of thousands of clients with a range of homecare needs. These members work with federal and state programs, insurance companies, and social service agencies. Each of its members is committed to integrity, consistency, and excellence.

For more information, please visit www.privatecare.org