



Family Health Care Tips

Frequently Asked Questions about *Mi Via*

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Parents Reaching Out provides resources that focus on helping families make informed decisions about the care and education of their children. Keeping your family healthy means knowing how to navigate the health care system and talk with your doctor or other providers. We hope these tip sheets will give you the information you may need to access the best, most cost-effective medical and related services to meet the needs of your family.

What is *Mi Via*?

Mi Via is New Mexico's new Medicaid Self-Directed Waiver program. *Mi Via*, which means "my path", "my way", or "my road", will be administered through a partnership among the New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Department, Department of Health, and Human Services Department.

What is the goal for *Mi Via*?

The goal of *Mi Via* is to provide a home and community-based alternative that 1) facilitates greater participant choice and control over the types of services and supports that they purchase within their authorized budgetary amount; and 2) enables the State to serve the most people possible within available resources.

Who will be able to participate in *Mi Via*?

Mi Via will cover the following Medicaid recipients of long term services: individuals eligible for the Disabled & Elderly, Developmental Disabilities, Medically Fragile, AIDS Waivers; and individuals with brain injuries (must participate in *Mi Via*). Before implementation, current waiver participants will receive information inviting them to choose to participate in *Mi Via*. New waiver participants will be able to choose *Mi Via* or a traditional waiver program.

How is *Mi Via* different from the other waiver programs?

Participants will have flexibility to develop their own individualized service and support plans, within their State-assigned individual budgets, and purchase and direct the services and supports identified in their plans.

What services and supports can participants choose to purchase?

Mi Via participants can purchase, using their individual budgets, any current waiver services or other services and goods not covered in the waivers or the Medicaid program, if those services or goods meet their functional, medical or social needs and advance the desired outcomes in their plans. Plans and budgets must be approved by the State.

Who will be available to help participants with the new program?

Consultants will help participants understand the program and will help develop and implement their service and support plans. A fiscal manager will set up an individual account, make expenditures that follow the authorized budget and handle all payroll functions on behalf of participants who hire service providers and other support personnel.

When will the new program be implemented?

The State has submitted a 1915c Waiver application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. Implementation is planned for July 1, 2006 or shortly thereafter.

*If you would like more information about **Mi Via** (New Mexico's new Medicaid Self-Directed waiver program), contact Aging and Long Term Services Resource Center at 800-432-2080 or visit their website at www.nmaging.state.nm.us*

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