**Assistive Technology MO DD Waiver Service definition**

**Appendix C: Participant Services C-1/C-3: Service Specification**

**Service Title: Assistive Technology**

Service Definition (Scope):

This service includes Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS), Medication Reminder Systems (MRS) and other electronic technology that protects the health and welfare of a participant. This service may also include electronic surveillance/monitoring systems using video, web-cameras, or other technology. However, use of such systems may be subject to human rights review. Assistive technology shall not include household appliances or items that are intended for purely diversional or recreational purposes. Assistive technology should be evidenced based, and shall not be experimental.

Electronic surveillance/monitoring systems using video, web-cameras, or other technology is only available on an individual, case-by-case basis when an individual requests the service and the planning team agrees it is appropriate and meets the health and safety needs of the individual. Remote monitoring technology may only be used with full consent of the individual and their guardian and with written approval by the human rights committee (HRC).

Remote monitoring will enable a person to be more independent and less reliant on staff to be physically present with them at all times, in particular for night time supports.

The type of equipment and where monitors are placed will depend upon the needs and wishes of the individual and their guardian (if applicable), and will also depend upon the particular company selected by the individual or guardian to provide the equipment. The installation of video monitoring equipment in the home will be done at the direction of the individual. If the home is shared with others the equipment will be installed in such a manner that it does not invade others’ privacy. The mainframe is housed at the provider’s service location. The remote monitoring device is controlled by the waiver participant and can be turned on or off as needed.

The provider must have safeguards and/or backup system such as battery and generator for the electronic devices in place at the monitoring base and the participant’s residential living site(s) in the event of electrical outages. The provider must have backup procedures for system failure (e.g., prolonged power outage), fire or weather emergency, participant medical issue or personal emergency in place and detailed in writing for each site utilizing the system as well as in each participant’s ISP. The ISP must specify the individuals to be contacted by monitoring base staff who will be responsible for responding to these situations and traveling to the participant’s living site(s). In situations requiring a person to respond to the participant’s residence, the response time should not exceed 20 minutes. In emergency situations, monitoring staff should call 911.

Waiver participants interested in electronic surveillance/remote monitoring technology must be assessed for risk following the division’s risk assessment guidelines posted at http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/riskguide.pdf and must be be provided information to ensure an informed choice about the use of remote monitoring equipment versus in-person support staff.

Monitoring is performed by on-duty personal assistants. The personal assistant may be employed by an agency, by the participant or their designated representative.

Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) is an electronic device that enables an individual at high risk of institutionalization to secure help in an emergency that is connected to a device and programmed to signal a response center once the help button is activated. The response center is staffed with trained professionals. The service is limited to those who live alone, live with others who are unable to summon help, or who are alone for significant portions of the day, have no regular caregiver for extended periods of time and would otherwise require extensive routine supervision.

A medication reminder system (MRS) is an electronic device programmed to provide a reminder to a participant when Medications are to be taken. The reminder may be a phone ring, automated recording or other alarm. This device is for individuals who have been evaluated as able to self administer medications with a reminder. The electronic device may dispense controlled dosages of medication and may include a message back to the center if a medication has not been removed from the dispenser. Medications must be set-up by an RN or professional qualified to set-up medications in the State of Missouri.

All electronic device vendors must provide equipment approved by the Federal Communications Commission and the equipment must meet the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL) standard for home health care signaling equipment. The UL listing mark on the equipment will be accepted as evidence of the equipment’s compliance with such standard.

The emergency response activator must be able to be activated by breath, by touch, or some other means and must be usable by persons who are visually or hearing impaired or physically disabled.

Any assistive technology device must not interfere with normal telephone use.

The PERS and MRS must be capable of operating without external power during a power failure at the recipient’s home in accordance with UL requirements for home health care signaling equipment with stand-by capability and must be portable.

An initial installation fee is covered as well as ongoing monthly rental charges and upkeep and maintenance of the devices.

Any assistive technology devices authorized under this service shall not duplicate services otherwise available through state plan.

MRS and PERS are just two of many different types of assistive technology. More examples of assistive technology that can enable people to be less dependent upon direct human assistance include but are not limited to electronic motion sensor devices, door alarms, web-cams, telephones with modifications such as large buttons, telephones with flashing lights, phones equipped with picture buttons programmed with that person’s phone number, devices that may be affixed to a wheelchair or walker to send an alert when someone falls (these may be slightly different than a PERS) text-to-speech software, devices that enhance images for people with low vision, intercom systems.

**Service limits:** Costs are limited to $3,000 per year, per individual. The annual limit corresponds to the waiver year, which begins July 1 and ends June 30 each year. (May be exceeded on a case-by-case basis. See Division Guideline #6, Exceptions to Waiver Cost Caps. <http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/Guideline6.pdf> )