

# SHARS Quick Reference Guide – Personal Care Services

---



## What are Personal Care Services (PCS)?

- PCS are support services provided to students who meet the definition of medical necessity and require assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), and health related functions because of a physical, cognitive, or behavioral limitation related to a disability or chronic health condition
- Assistance may be in the form of “hands-on assistance” (actually performing a personal care task for a person) or “cueing” the person so that the person performs the task by him/herself
- Personal care services are supports that may be provided through:
  - Total or partial physical assistance
  - Prompting or cueing the student to complete the task
  - Redirection, monitoring, and observation that are medically necessary and an integral part of completing a personal care service
- PCS are provided by someone other than the minor child’s legal or foster parent/guardian or the child’s spouse

## When is it personal care?

- Goal not to teach or habilitate, but complete the activity
- Level of assistance is greater than typical child of same age
- Need for assistance is related to disability/condition that affects function

## What is *not* PCS?

- Assistance with ADLs or IADLs that a typically developing child of the same chronological age could also not safely and independently perform without adult supervision
- Consider if the assistance is educational only or health based, educational tasks are typically not PCS
- Teaching a life skills class
- Cueing educational tasks

## How do I determine the amount of time associated with PCS services?

- Service times should be stated in the IEP
- The amount of time should be reasonable given the services needed
- Take into account the full day including needs before and after school as well as time without support such as recess, lunch and specials
- All day for everyone should not be the default, times should be specific to the student’s individual needs

## IEP documentation should address the following items

- Is the service provided on a one-on-one basis, group basis, or both?
- Examples of PCS provided
- When/Where are the PCS needed
- Reason(s) for PCS, including medical necessity

## Eligible recipients must:

- Be enrolled in a public school’s special education program
- Be 20 years of age or younger
- Have an ARD/IEP documenting the medical necessity for services
- Have a disability or chronic medical condition
- Be Medicaid eligible

