



## Long-Term Services for Individuals with a Brain Injury



### What is Mi Via ?

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

### Goals

The goal of **Mi Via** is to provide a home and community-based alternative for those who meet Nursing Facility Level of Care (described under "Medical Eligibility"). The program facilitates greater choice and control over the types of services and supports individuals are able to purchase within an agreed upon budget amount; and enables the State to serve the most people possible within available resources.

### Who Participates?

**Mi Via** will cover Medicaid long term services for eligible individuals with **BRAIN INJURY**, and for those eligible for other New Mexico Medicaid Waivers: the Disabled and Elderly Waiver (D&E), the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD), Medically Fragile Waiver (MF), and the AIDS Waiver.

### Limits

Individuals who acquired their brain injury after birth and before 65 years of age may be eligible.

### How Is Mi Via Different?

Individuals will have flexibility and responsibility for developing their own individualized service and support plans, within their State-assigned individual budgets, and for purchasing and directing the services and supports they have identified in their plans.

### Choice Of Services & Supports

**Mi Via** participants can purchase, using their individual budgets, any current waiver service(s) or other services and goods not covered in the waivers or the Medicaid program. Those services or goods must meet their functional, medical, or social needs according to their State-approved plan and budget.

### How Mi Via Will Work for Me

Consultants will help individuals with a brain injury understand the program as well as develop and implement their service and support plans. A financial agent will set up an individual's account; make expenditures that follow the authorized budget; handle all payroll functions on behalf of those, who hire service providers and other support personnel; provide the individual with a monthly report of expenditures and budget summary; and provide the State with a quarterly report on expenditures.

### Who is Eligible?

Individuals must meet financial and medical eligibility for **Mi Via** services, as described below. BIANM has hired Brain Injury Guides to assist interested individuals with the financial and medical eligibility process.

### Financial Eligibility

Individuals will be required to submit financial documentation to the Income Support Division (ISD) of the Human Services Department. The items listed on the back of this form should be collected in advance of meeting with an ISD caseworker. There is an ISD office in each county.

### Medical Eligibility

Individuals must meet medical eligibility criteria to receive **Mi Via** services. A doctor must complete and sign two required documents: The **ICD-9 Code Form** verifies a brain injury diagnosis and must include one of the qualifying ICD-9 codes, as listed on the back of the form. The **Long-Term Care Abstract (ISD 379)**, will be used to confirm that the individual meets a nursing home level of care; this means the individual requires daily, direct assistance in two or more Activities of Daily Living (bathing, eating, dressing, transferring, etc.). Additionally, a Third Party Assessor (TPA) will meet with the individual to conduct an **in-home assessment**, during which detailed information about the person's medical, social, and functional history is gathered. The TPA will use this assessment, the abstract, and confirmation of the ICD-9 Code to determine overall medical eligibility; this information is also used to develop the individual's Service and Support Plan.

### When Can I Submit My Application?

Contact the ALTSD Resource Center (RC) and ask that your name be added to the Brain Injury list. The RC will send the information you need to enroll.

## **BRAIN INJURY DEFINITION**

Mi Via, the New Mexico Medicaid Self-Directed Waiver

**Brain injury** (BI) means an injury to the brain of traumatic or acquired origin, resulting in total or partial functional disability, psychosocial impairment, or both. The term applies to open and closed head injuries caused by an insult to the brain from an outside physical force; anoxia, electrical shock; shaken baby syndrome; toxic and chemical substances; near drownings; infections; tumors, or vascular lesions. BI may result in either temporary or permanent, partial or total impairments in one or more areas including, but not limited to cognition; language; memory; attention; reasoning; abstract thinking; judgment; problem solving; sensory, perceptual, and motor abilities; psychosocial behavior; physical functions; information processing; and speech.

The term “**brain injury**” does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital, induced by birth trauma, or degenerative. Nor does it include neurological disorders related to the aging process or chemically-caused brain injuries that are a result of habitual substance abuse.

**Mi Via Requirements Specific to Brain Injury:** The BI must have occurred after birth. Additionally, the person must be under the age of 65 years, meet the financial eligibility requirements, require a nursing facility level of care, and have a diagnosis documented by at least one of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-9) codes listed below. An ICD-9 form will be provided to take to a physician to complete.

### ACCEPTABLE ICD-9 CODES

191.0 – 191.8	310.2	431	800.0 – 800.95	854.0 -854.19
192.1	320.0 – 320.9	432.0, 432.1, 432.2, 432.9	801.0 – 801.99	905
192	321.0 – 321.8	433.0 – 433.91	803.0 – 803.99	907
198.3	322.0 – 322.9	434.0 – 434.91	804.0 – 804.99	988.0 – 988.9
198.4	323.0 – 323.9	435.0 – 435.9	850.0 – 850.9	994.1
225	326	436	851.0 – 851.99	994.7
225.1	348.1	436.0 – 436.9	852.0 – 852.59	995.5
225.2	430	438.0 – 438.9	853.0 – 853.19	995.8

### FINANCIAL STEPS TO TAKE TO APPLY FOR MI VIA

**A. An individual cannot have income or resources over the Medicaid limits.**

Effective January 1, 2008, the maximum countable monthly income standard for institutional care Medicaid and the home and community based waiver categories is \$1,891. An individual’s resource limit is \$2000. Certain types of income and resources are excluded. If an individual receives certain types of income, they may be considered “categorically eligible.” An individual must visit their local ISD county office to find out if they are financially eligible.

**B. An individual must complete an application for Medicaid services, and make an appointment to meet with an ISD caseworker in their county. An individual will need to provide the ISD county office with verification and proof of their financial circumstances. Verification documents a person will be asked to provide are:**

- Picture ID (Driver’s license or State ID)
- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Most recent federal income tax documents
- Proof of value of resources (bank account, investments)
- Proof of income for the last 4 weeks or expected income for the next month
- Proof of state residency (utility bill, voter registration)
- Most recent divorce decree, if applicable
- Insurance paperwork, if applicable
- Documentation of a brain injury (ICD-9 Code verified by a doctor. See qualifying ICD-9 Code list above.)

For information call the

### **Mi Via Brain Injury Hotline**

at the Brain Injury Association of New Mexico

**1-888-292-7415.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Aging and Long-Term Services Resource Center.....1-800-432-2080 or 505-476-4846, www.nmaging.state.nm.us  
 ALTSD Brain Injury Program.....1-866-451-2901, Scott.Pokorny@state.nm.us  
 Brain Injury Association of New Mexico.....1-888-292-7415 or 505-292-7414, braininjurynm@msn.org  
 Brain Injury Advisory Council.....1-505-476-7328, Elizabeth.Peterson@state.nm.us  
**Local ISD number, location & Contact** \_\_\_\_\_

This should be completed by the person seeking *Mi Via* services