Respite Care

SERVICE DEFINITION

Respite care services are services provided to participants unable to care for themselves. Respite care services are furnished on a short-term basis in order to provide temporary relief to those unpaid persons normally providing care. Respite can be provided in the participant's home or place of residence, in the respite caregiver's home, in a camp setting, in a DDRS-approved day habilitation facility, or in a non-private residential setting (such as a respite home)

Reimbursable Activities

Reimbursable activities under Respite care services include the following:

- Assistance with toileting and feeding
- Assistance with daily living skills, including assistance with accessing the community and community activities
- Assistance with grooming and personal hygiene
- Meal preparation, serving, and cleanup
- Administration of medications
- Supervision
- Individual services
- Group services (unit rate divided by number of participants served)

Service Standards

The following service standards apply to Respite care services:

- Respite care must be reflected in the ISP
- Respite Nursing care (RN) or Respite Nursing care (LPN) services may be delivered only when skilled care is required and documented in the ISP

Documentation Standards

Service Notes: A service note can include multiple discrete services, as long as discrete services are clearly identified. A service note must include:

- Participant name
- RID
- Date of service
- Provider rendering service
- Primary location of services rendered

An activity summary for each block of time this service is rendered must exist and must include duration, service, a brief description of activities, significant medical or behavioral incidents requiring intervention, or any other situation that is uncommon for the participant. A staff signature must be present for each block of time claimed on a service note. A new entry is not required unless a different discrete service is provided (that is, one continuous note may exist even if the ratio changes).

As applicable, monthly/quarterly reports must be uploaded to Advocare by the chosen service provider on or before the fifteenth day of the following month

For Group Services

On request, the provider must be able to verify, in a concise format, that the ratio for each claimed time frame of service did not exceed the maximum allowable ratio, whether or not all group participants utilize a waiver funding stream.

Electronic signatures are acceptable if the provider has a log on file showing the staff member's electronic signature, actual signature, and printed name.

Limitations

The following limitations apply to Respite services:

Waiver-funded respite services may not be rendered in a nursing facility

Activities Not Allowed

The following activities are not allowed under Respite services:

- Reimbursement for room and board
- Services provided to a participant living in a licensed facility-based setting
- The cost of registration fees or the cost of recreational activities (for example, camp)
- When the service of SFC is being furnished to the participant or when the participant is in Children's Foster Care with the Division of Child Services
- Other family members (such as siblings of the participant) may not receive care or supervision from the provider while Respite care is being provided/billed for the waiver participants
- Respite care shall not be used as day/child care
- Respite is not intended to be provided on a continuous, long-term basis as part of daily services that would enable the unpaid caregiver to go to work or to attend school
- Respite care shall not be used to provide service to a participant while the participant is attending school
- Respite care may not be used to replace skilled nursing services that should be provided under the Medicaid State Plan
- Respite care must not duplicate any other service being provided under the participant's POC/CCB 150
- Services furnished to a minor by a parent(s), stepparent(s), or legal guardian
- Services furnished to a participant by the participant's spouse

Additional Information

- Available under the Family Supports Waiver and the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver.
- Respite may be used intermittently to cover those hours normally covered by an unpaid caregiver.