

## **Respite Care**

Revised July 2020

### **Definition**

Respite Care is assistance and supervision provided to a HASCI Waiver participant due to a short-term absence of or need for relief by those normally providing unpaid care. It can be provided on a periodic and/or emergency basis to relieve one or more unpaid caregivers.

The service may include hands-on assistance or direction/cueing for personal care and/or general supervision to assure safety. It may include skilled nursing procedures only if these are specifically delegated by a licensed nurse or as otherwise permitted by State law.

Respite Care may be provided in a variety of community or institutional settings. Federal Financial Participation (FFP) will not be claimed for cost of room and board except if Respite Care is provided in a facility approved by the State that is not a private residence.

### **Service Unit**

Non-Institutional Respite Care:                      one unit equals 15 minutes

Institutional Respite Care:                              one unit equals one (1) day when the participant is present at midnight

Refer to the current HASCI Waiver rate table for reimbursement amounts. *This can be accessed via the SCDDSN Application Portal >R2D2 >View Reports >Waiver >Service Rates >HASCI.*

### **Service Limit / Restrictions**

Non-Institutional Respite Care may be provided in the following locations:

- Participant's home or other private residence
- Group home:
  - SCDDSN licensed residence (CTH-I or CTH-II)
  - SCDHEC licensed Community Residential Care Facility (CRCF) operated by an agency contracted with SCDDSN

Institutional Respite Care on a daily basis may be provided in the following locations:

- Medicaid-certified hospital

- Medicaid-certified nursing facility (NF)
- Medicaid-certified Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disability (ICF/IID); this may be a SCDDSN Regional Center or a community ICF/IID

Respite Care cannot substitute or be an ongoing supplement to a participant's authorized Attendant Care/Personal Assistance or Medicaid Waiver Nursing funded by the HASCI Waiver. There must be one or more identified unpaid caregivers to be relieved.

Within the authorized units, Respite Care may be provided on the same days that Attendant Care/Personal Assistance and/or Medicaid Waiver Nursing is received, but must be provided at different hours.

The amount of Non-Institutional Respite care approved takes the entire waiver service package into consideration, including services such as Attendant Care/Personal Assistance and Medicaid Waiver Nursing.

Except in extreme circumstances, Non-Institutional Respite Care may not exceed 64 units per calendar day. Unless there is clear justification, Respite Care does not include time when the participant/Respite Care worker is sleeping. To exceed 64 units per day, prior approval must be obtained from the Waiver Administration Division; approval may be time limited.

Note: For children under the age of 12, the waiver will only fund care that is directly related to the child's disability. The caregiver is responsible for care equal to that of parents of non-disabled children.

Note: For children in Foster Care, the Waiver Case Manager must receive approval from the DSS worker before Respite can be provided. The approval must be documented in Case Notes.

Note: Participants receiving Residential Habilitation may not receive both Respite Care and Residential Habilitation on the same day through the HASCI Waiver.

Note: A Respite caregiver and Attendant Care/Personal Assistance Provider cannot render services at the same time. Respite services and Attendant Care/Personal Assistance Services are not interchangeable.

### **Providers**

Non-Institutional Respite Care may be provided by the following:

- An agency or company directly enrolled with SCDHHS as a Respite Care provider for HASCI Waiver participants
- A DSN Board or other qualified provider agency contracted by SCDDSN for Respite Care or Home Supports

The DSN Board or provider agency is responsible to ensure that Respite Care workers meet minimum qualifications as stipulated in SCDDSN Respite Program Standards.

*This can be accessed on the SCDDSN website: [www.ddsn.sc.gov](http://www.ddsn.sc.gov) >About DDSN >Directives and Standards >Current DDSN Standards.*

The DSN Board or provider agency must also comply with SCDDSN Directives 567-01-DD, *Employee Orientation, Pre-Service and Annual Training Requirements* and 735-02-DD, *Relatives/Family Members Serving as Paid Caregivers of Respite Services*. *These can be accessed on the SCDDSN website: [www.ddsn.sc.gov](http://www.ddsn.sc.gov) >About DDSN >Directives and Standards >Current DDSN Directives.*

If Respite Care will be provided in a participant's home or other private residence, the DSN Board or provider agency must certify Respite Care workers using SCDDSN's *Home Supports Caregiver Certification*. *This can be accessed via the SCDDSN Application Portal >Business Tools >Forms >HASCI Waiver.*

Institutional (Daily) Respite Care may be provided by the following:

- SC Medicaid-certified hospital
- SC Medicaid-certified nursing facility (NF)
- SC Medicaid-certified Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disability (ICF/IID). This may be a SCDDSN Regional Center or a community ICF/IID.

### **Arranging and Authorizing the Service**

When it is determined Respite Care is needed and desired on a periodic, occasional, or emergency basis to provide relief to one or more identified unpaid caregivers, the need must be clearly documented in the participant's Support Plan. Completion of the HASCI Waiver Respite Assessment is required prior to authorizing the service (except in emergency/crisis situations). Also, once the service is approved and authorized, this assessment must be completed annually face to face for the duration of the service as part of the Annual Assessment, and as changes/updates are requested. The HASCI Waiver Respite Assessment is designed to supplement the Case Management Assessment in providing detailed information regarding the participant's difficulty of care and to determine the caregiver's stress level and identify other information related to the need for Respite. The information gathered from the assessment will help the Waiver Case Manager determine how many units of Respite are appropriate to meet the needs of the participant and his/her caregiver.

For Institutional Respite Care, admissions are often restricted due to bed availability and appropriateness/capability of a hospital, NF, or ICF-IID to accept a particular individual. Additional referral procedures/forms may be required by the hospital, NF, or ICF-IID. The Waiver Case Manager must inquire about any Respite Care referral procedures required by that facility and follow-up as necessary.

Prior to authorization of the service, the participant's Support Plan must be updated to clearly reflect the name of the service and funding source, the amount, frequency, and duration of the service, and service provider type. In order to update the Support Plan, the Waiver Case Manager will request approval from the SCDSSN Waiver Administration Division. Upon approval, the Waiver Case Manager must enter the service into the Service Tracking System (STS).

The participant or representative must be offered choice among types of Respite Care available through the HASCI Waiver and must be offered choice of available providers. It must be clearly documented in Case Notes that these options and choices were offered, as well as the selection(s) made by the participant or representative.

Upon approval by the Waiver Administration Division, an electronic authorization must be completed and submitted to the chosen provider. Ongoing Respite Care services must be authorized annually at the time of the Support Plan, and as changes are made to the service throughout the plan year.

- *Authorization for Respite Care* billed to the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services must be made out to the Respite Care Agency.
- *Authorization of Respite Care* billed to the participant's Financial Manager agency must be made out to the entity that pays the respite caregiver (s).
- *Authorization for Respite Care (the Statewide Respite Program certified by Respite Coalition)* billed to the Fiscal Agent must be made out to the Fiscal Agent.

The Waiver Case Manager must complete a new service authorization(s) if there is a change in the number of hours of service to be provided to the Waiver participant. The Waiver Case Manager must forward copies of all service authorizations to the Waiver participant.

- If Institutional Respite Care will be provided, an electronic authorization must be completed and submitted to the chosen provider.

## **Billing**

**If Respite Care is provided by an agency or company enrolled with SCDHHS as a Respite Care Services provider,** the service must be Direct-billed to SCDHHS. This must be indicated on the authorization.

**If Respite Care is provided by a DSN Board or other qualified provider contracted by SCDDSN,** the service must be Board-billed to the participant's SCDDSN Financial Manager agency. This must be indicated on the authorization.

- The DSN Board or provider agency is responsible for maintaining documentation that service was rendered for each unit billed.
- The Financial Manager agency must follow *Procedures to Report and Bill for Board-Based Services Provided to HASCI Waiver Recipients* to receive reimbursement from SCDDSN. Access via the *SCDDSN Application Portal >Business Tools >Forms >Finance Manual Chapter 10, Section 10-14.*

**If Respite Care is provided through the Statewide Respite Program (certified by the Respite Coalition),** it must be billed to the fiscal agent contracted by SCDDSN.

### **Monitorship**

The Waiver Case Manager must monitor the effectiveness, frequency, duration, benefits, and usefulness of the service along with the participant's/family's satisfaction with the service. Monitoring may be completed with the participant, representative, service providers, or other relevant entities. Information gathered during monitoring may lead to a change in the service, such as an increase/decrease in units authorized, change of provider, change to a more appropriate service, etc. DDSN recommends that the Waiver Case Manager monitors this service when it begins and as changes are made.

Monitoring must be conducted as frequently as necessary in order to ensure:

- the health, safety and well-being of the participant;
- the service adequately addresses the needs of the participant;
- the service is being furnished by the chosen provider in accordance with the authorization, relevant policies and quality expectations;  
the participant/representative is satisfied with their chosen provider(s).

Some questions to consider during monitorship include:

- Is the participant receiving Respite Care as authorized?
- Does the provider show up on time and stay the scheduled amount of time?
- Does the provider show the participant courtesy and respect?

- Is the participant satisfied with the current provider?
- Does the caregiver feel that he/she is receiving enough relief from providing for the participant's care?
- Does the service need to continue at the current amount/frequency?
- Is there need for additional Respite to be requested at this time?
- Is the participant pleased with the care being provided, or is assistance needed in obtaining a new caregiver?

Monitoring contacts, face-to-face visits, and review of the participant's Support Plan must be documented in Case Notes.

### **Service Denial, Reduction, Suspension, and Termination**

If a HASCI Waiver participant is denied a service that was requested or denied an increase in units of a service already authorized, the Waiver Case Manager must provide written notification to the participant or legal guardian, including reason for denial. Information concerning SCDDSN Reconsideration and SCDHHS Appeal must also be provided.

If a participant's authorized units of a HASCI Waiver service must be reduced, temporarily suspended, or indefinitely terminated, the Waiver Case Manager must provide written notification to the participant or legal guardian, including reason for the action. Information concerning SCDDSN Reconsideration and SCDHHS Appeal must also be provided.

Except when the action was requested by the participant or legal guardian or if the action is due to the participant's death, admission to a hospital or nursing facility, or loss of Medicaid and/or HASCI Waiver eligibility, there must be at least 10 calendar days between the date of notification and effective date of the action.

Written notification to the participant or legal guardian is made using the following forms, which are also used to notify each affected service provider of the action:

- *Notice of Denial of Service* (HASCI Form 11C)
  - *Notice of Reduction of Service* (HASCI Form 11A)
  - *Notice of Suspension of Service* (HASCI Form 11B)
  - *Notice of Termination of Service* (HASCI Form 11)
- These can be accessed via the SCDDSN Application Portal >Business Tools >Forms >HASCI Waiver.*

When the action becomes effective, the participant's Support Plan must be updated. Budget information in the Waiver Tracking System (WTS) must be adjusted accordingly.

Service information must be entered into STS by the Waiver Case Manager as necessary.