



State of New Mexico
Medical Assistance Program Manual
Supplement



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TO: **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS**

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SUBJECT: **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPITE SERVICES – Effective 01/01/2017**

As part of Centennial Care's comprehensive service system, Behavioral Health (BH) Respite Service is for short-term direct care and supervision of the member in order to afford the parent(s) or care giver a respite from their care of the member and takes place in the member's home or another setting. Behavioral health respite care is provided to children and youth up to age 18 with a severe emotional disorder (SED) who reside with the family, caregiver, or shelter care, or adolescents aged 18 – 21 if they have been diagnosed with an SED prior to their 18th birthday. If a member is newly diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI) between the ages of 18 and 21 the Member is also eligible for BH respite service during that time frame. BH Respite care is also available for youth in Protective Services Custody whose placement may be at risk whether or not they have been diagnosed with a SED/SMI. Behavioral Health (BH) respite services are different than Community Benefit respite services and both may be provided if appropriate.

If BH respite is needed, the appropriate agency personnel will assess the situation and, with the caregiver, recommend the appropriate setting for respite. The BH respite services may include a range of activities to meet the social, emotional and physical needs identified through the service or treatment plan, and documented in the treatment record. These services may be provided for a few hours during the day or for longer periods of time involving overnight stays. BH respite, while usually planned, can also be provided in an emergency or unplanned basis.

Eligible Population

- Members up to 21 years of age diagnosed with a severe emotional disorder (SED) as defined by the State of New Mexico; and
- Members whose primary caregivers typically are the same people day after day and who express a need for relief.

Program Requirements

The BH respite service should be aligned with the member's treatment goals.

Provider Types

Respite Care services may be provided by:

- Treatment Foster Care home (provider type 218)
- Core Service Agency (provider type 446)
- Behavioral Health Agency (provider type 432)

Staff Qualifications

Supervisor Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree with three (3) years' experience working with the target population.

Staff supervision activities include the following:

- Minimum of two (2) hours per month individual supervision covering administrative and case specific issues.
- Two (2) additional hours per month of continuing education in behavioral health respite care issues, or annualized respite provider training.
- Access to on call Crisis Support available 24 hours a day.

Both clinical services and supervision by licensed practitioners must be in accordance with their respective licensing board regulations.

Individuals providing respite services must:

- Have a minimum of 3 years' experience working with the target population;
- Pass all criminal records and background checks for all persons residing in the home over 18;
- Possess a valid driver's license and vehicle registration and insurance if transporting member;
- Have CPR and first aid certification; and
- Have documentation of behavioral health orientation, training and supervision.

Orientation includes:

- Member rights,
- confidentiality,
- behavioral health symptoms,
- substance use symptoms,
- managing safety,
- protecting member's dignity and choice
- Have access to regular in-service training, supervision, administrative contact and clinical support; and
- Receive additional training and supervision to include:
 - behavioral management techniques;
 - stages of development;
 - substance abuse issues;
 - crisis identification and referral; and
 - other population specific information needed to continue the member's service goals and to promote the health, safety and personal dignity of the member.

Service exclusions:

- 30 days or 720 hours per year limitation
- This service may not be billed in conjunction with the following Medicaid services:
 - Treatment Foster Care
 - Group Home
 - Residential Services
 - Inpatient Treatment
- Non-enrolled siblings of a child receiving BH respite services are not eligible for BH respite benefits
- Cost of room and board are not included as part of respite care.