



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

November 25, 2008

To: Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-173
Reimbursement Rates for Out of Home Respite Services Provided by Nursing Facilities

Effective December 1, 2008, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will implement new rates, adopted by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Rate Analysis Department, for out-of-home respite provided in a nursing facility (NF). The new MDCP rates will include out-of-home respite rates for individuals who receive 24-hour ventilator care (new service code 11FA), less than 24-hour ventilator care (new service code 11FB) and tracheostomy care (new service code 11FC) in a NF.

The billing codes and other necessary information needed for billing may be located in the billing code crosswalk at: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/hipaa/billcodes/index.html#lrc>.

Any changes requested to current authorizations will be completed as a revision to the individual plan of care (IPC) according to current policy and in the same manner as any other IPC change. Providers must contact the DADS case manager to request changes to the IPC.

The DADS case manager will document the authorization on DADS Form 2415. Providers must maintain documentation to support the need for these services. The addition of these new rates for out-of-home respite services may not be retroactive.

The process of adding these rates and service codes to the billing system for the MDCP contracts has begun, but will take time to complete. All MDCP contracts for out-of-home respite provided by a NF should be updated by December 15, 2008, and ready for these services to be billed. However, before billing for these services, check the Medicaid Eligibility Service Authorization Verification (MESAV) system to ensure that the authorization has been entered into the Service Authorization System (SAS).

For additional information pertaining to the service codes for MDCP out-of-home respite provided by a NF, contact Community Services at (512) 438-3015. For additional information pertaining to MDCP rates, please contact Sarah Hambrick at sarah.hambrick@hhsc.state.tx.us or (512) 491-1431.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik
Director
Community Services

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