



COMMISSIONER  
Adelaide Horn

August 29, 2008

To: Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-82  
Addition of Rates for Respite and Adjunct Support Services Provided by Nurses to  
Individuals Who Receive Ventilator or Tracheostomy Care

Effective September 1, 2008, the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will implement new rates, developed by the Rate Analysis Department of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), for respite and adjunct support services provided by nurses to individuals who receive ventilator or tracheostomy care. To qualify for these respite or adjunct support services rates when provided by a nurse, a physician must determine the individual requires daily skilled nursing to cleanse, dress, and suction a tracheostomy or daily skilled nursing assistance with ventilator or respirator care. The individual must be unable to provide self-care and require at least one of the following services:

- daily skilled nursing to cleanse, dress, and suction a tracheostomy, as demonstrated by a value of 3-7 in Item 093 of DADS Form 3652, Client Assessment, Review and Evaluation (CARE); or
- daily skilled nursing assistance with ventilator care, as demonstrated by a value of 3-7 in Item 099 of the 3652 CARE form.

Effective September 1, 2008, DADS will begin using the Medical Necessity and Level of Care Assessment in place of Form 3652. At that time, to qualify for the respite or adjunct support services rates when provided by a nurse, an individual must be unable to provide self-care and require at least one of the following services:

- daily skilled nursing to cleanse, dress, and suction a tracheostomy, as documented with a check mark in the Medical Necessity and Level of Care Assessment, Section P, P1 (a) (j) Tracheostomy care and with a value of 3-7 in S6 (a) Tracheostomy Care; or
- daily skilled nursing assistance with ventilator care, as documented with a check mark in the Medical Necessity and Level of Care Assessment form, Section P, P1.(a) (l) – Ventilator or Respirator and with a value of 3-7 in S6 (b) Ventilator/Respirator.

The addition of respite or adjunct support services provided by nurses to individuals who receive ventilator or tracheostomy care is 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 2414 or 2415. Providers must maintain documentation to support the need for these services. The addition of these new rates for respite or adjunct support services may not be retroactive. If the specialized

rates are requested and authorized, **all** respite and adjunct support services provided **must** be billed using this rate using the codes shown in the revised billing crosswalk which may be viewed at: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/hipaa/billcodes/index.html#ltc>

The rates, service codes, health care common procedure codes (HCPCs) and modifiers for respite and adjunct support services provided by a nurse to an individual who receives ventilator or tracheostomy care are:

Respite:	Rate	Service Code	HCPC	Modifier 2	Modifier 3
Independent Registered Nurse	\$39.92	11PS	T1030	TG	TD
Independent Licensed Vocational Nurse	\$27.31	11NS	T1031	TG	TE
HCSSA Registered Nurse	\$49.90	11MS	T1030	TG	TD
HCSSA Licensed Vocational Nurse	\$34.14	11MS	T1031	TG	TE

Adjunct Support Services:	Rate	Service Code	HCPC	Modifier 2	Modifier 3
Independent Registered Nurse	\$39.92	11TS	T1030	TG	TD
Independent Licensed Vocational Nurse	\$27.31	11SS	T1031	TG	TE
HCSSA Registered Nurse	\$49.90	11RS	T1030	TG	TD
HCSSA Licensed Vocational Nurse	\$34.14	11RS	T1031	TG	TE

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 Respite and Adjunct Support Services should be updated by September 1, 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, HCPCs, or modifiers for MDCP respite or adjunct support services provided by a nurse to individuals receiving ventilator or tracheostomy care, contact Lori Roberts at [lori.roberts@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:lori.roberts@dads.state.tx.us) or (512) 438-5391. For additional information pertaining to MDCP rates, please contact Sarah Hambrick at [sarah.hambrick@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:sarah.hambrick@hhsc.state.tx.us) or (512) 491-1431.

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik  
Director  
Community Services

MDV:ss