

Respite Care-LTSS

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Products:	Medicaid
Application:	All participating hospitals and providers
Page Number(s):	1 of 3

Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy provides information regarding the coverage of, as determined by applicable federal and/or state legislation.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person’s unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

The qualifications of the policy will meet the standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and all applicable state and federal regulations.

PURPOSE

This policy outlines Highmark Health Options reimbursement for respite care for Highmark Health Options LTSS members.

DEFINITIONS

Highmark Health Options (HHO) – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Health Options members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Health Options currently services Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan Plus LTSS (DSHP Plus LTSS) members.

Respite Services – Services provided on a short-term basis to allow temporary relief from caretaking duties for a member’s primary caregiver.

PROCEDURES

Prior authorization is required.

Respite care includes services provided to members unable to care for themselves furnished on a short term basis because of the absence or need for relief for the member's caregiver.

Respite Care Services

Respite care can cover a wide range of services. Respite care services can include:

- Light personal care, such as bathing and grooming
- Socialization, like conversation and companionship
- Meal preparation and cooking
- Running errands
- Transportation
- Nursing and medical care
- Dementia care
- Medication management
- Participation in facility activities

Types of Respite Care

- In-Home Respite Care
- Assisted Living Facility
- Nursing Home

Limitations

Limited to 14 days per calendar year

The Contractor's case manager may authorize service request exceptions above this limit when it determines that:

- no other service options are available to the member, including services provided through an informal support network;
- the absence of the service would present a significant health and welfare risk to the member; or
- respite service provided in a nursing facility or assisted living facility is not utilized to replace or relocate an individual's primary residence.

Post-payment Audit Statement

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Highmark Health Options at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

Place of Service: Inpatient/Outpatient

CODING REQUIREMENTS

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

CPT codes	Description
S5150	Unskilled respite care, not hospice; per 15 minutes.
S5150-U5	Unskilled respite care, not hospice; per 15 minutes; two members.
S5150-U6	Unskilled respite care, not hospice; per 15 minutes; three members.
S5150-U7	Unskilled respite care, not hospice; per 15 minutes; four members.
S5151	Unskilled respite care, not hospice; per diem.
T1005	Respite care services, up to 15 minutes.

REIMBURSEMENT

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark Health Options contract.

References

Delaware Health and Social Services. 2022. Master Service Agreement.

Highmark Health Options. 2022. Provider Manual. Retrieved from <https://www.highmarkhealthoptions.com/content/dam/digital-marketing/en/highmark/highmarkhealthoptions/providers/provider-resources/hho-2022-provider-manual.pdf>

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