



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Mental Health, Developmental
Disabilities and Substance Use Services

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COMMUNICATION BULLETIN

TO: Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs)

FROM: Saarah Waleed, Assistant Director for Policy and Programs, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services

SUBJECT: Revisions to the State-Funded Respite service for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Serious Emotional Disturbance diagnosis (SED) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

DATE: September 29, 2023

CONTENT: Revisions to Respite service definition for I/DD or TBI, Mental Health diagnosis and Substance Use Benefit Plans.

The revisions have been made to the State-Funded Respite service definition based on feedback from stakeholders.

This bulletin explains changes in the service definition which become effective on the dates listed below. Amended service definitions can be found at: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/mentalhealth-development-disabilities-and-substance-abuse-services/service-definitions>

Respite (I/DD or TBI, SED or SUD)

The service requirements for Respite service are as follows:

- Respite is an individual or group service that enables the primary caregiver(s), when other natural supports are unavailable, to assist with caregiving, to meet or participate in periodic, planned or emergency events, and to have planned breaks in caregiving.
- Respite may include in and out-of-home services, inclusive of overnight, weekend care, or emergency care (caregiver emergency based).
- The respite provider supplies care that addresses the health, nutrition and daily living needs of the recipient.
- This service may not exceed 384 hours per recipient's plan year.

The service requirements specifically for Respite service (**I/DD or TBI**) are as follows:

- Respite service is for a child or adolescent or adult recipients ages 3 and older.

The service requirements specifically for Respite service (**SED or SUD**) are as follows:

- The recipient is a child or adolescent ages 3 through 17 and has a primary diagnosis of a SED, as defined by SAMHSA, or a primary diagnosis of moderate or severe SUD, as defined

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by the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), or any subsequent editions of this reference material.

Billing should be completed as follows for the Respite service below:

- Individuals NEW to the Respite service should utilize the appropriate NCTracks procedure code below based upon the assigned option effective Jan. 1, 2024.

Service Rates:

- The service rate is \$3.75 per 15 minutes, 1 unit = 15 minutes. The procedure codes are **YP014 for Individual – Child** and **YP012 for Individual Adult**.
- The service rate is \$1.25 per 15 minutes, 1 unit = 15 minutes. The procedure codes are **YP015 for Group – Child** and **YP013 for Group – Adult**.

LME/MCOs maintain rate setting authority.

- Individuals CURRENTLY enrolled in the following Respite services below must transition to an appropriate procedure code by Dec. 31, 2023. The current NCTracks procedure codes below will terminate and will no longer be billable in NCTracks after Dec. 31, 2023.

Termination of NCTracks Codes under the IDD and TBI, SUD and Mental Health Benefit Plans on Dec. 31, 2023	
Name of Service	NCTracks Code
Respite – Community – CMSED	YA213
Respite – Community	YP730
Respite - Hourly – CMSED	YA125
Respite – Hourly	YP010 and YP011

Note: DMH/DD/SUS does not have a state-funded service requirement for current individuals accessing services to obtain updated psychological assessments to access the updated service definitions. However, LME/MCOs should retain documentation to support the individual meeting the applicable benefit plan and service criteria.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Jones at 984-236-5043 or DMHIDDCONTACT@dhhs.nc.gov.