

	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Respite Care Nursing Facility Admissions	BY  Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H. Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
NUMBER:	35-98-06, 36-98-06	
ISSUE DATE:	April 17, 1998	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 17, 1998	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue procedures to nursing facility providers regarding respite care nursing facility admissions.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all nursing facilities enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program in the counties that have been approved for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The PDA Waiver, as approved by the Health Care Financing Administration pursuant to Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §1396n(c)), permits the Commonwealth to provide long term care services in the community as an alternative to providing those services in nursing facilities.

On November 1, 1995, the PDA Waiver was implemented initially in Philadelphia County. The waiver has now expanded to the following counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Bradford, Cambria, Cameron, Delaware, Elk, Fayette, Greene, Lackawanna, Luzerne, McKean, Montgomery, Northampton, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Washington, Westmoreland and Wyoming. Medical Assistance Bulletin 35-97-01 and 36-97-01 issued February 28, 1997 titled "Expansion of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA) Waiver" listed services authorized by the waiver.

One of the services authorized by the waiver is respite care in a nursing facility. These respite care services are provided to individuals, admitted to a nursing facility, for a very brief and finite stay because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care.

PROCEDURE:

Individuals admitted to a nursing facility pursuant to the PDA waiver and provided respite care should be treated as a regular nursing facility admission, in accordance with 55 Pa. Code Chapter 1187.

In the Case-Mix Reimbursement System Cost Report (MA-11) filed by the nursing facility, the Schedule B (Summary of Nursing Facility Resident Census Records) should include respite care days as Non-MA days of care. These days are then included as actual resident days for the period in Schedule A (Summary). The costs associated with providing respite care services should be included in the nursing facility costs on Schedule C (Computation and Allocation of Allowable Cost).

The rate charged by a nursing facility for a nursing facility admission receiving respite care is not considered the nursing facility's usual and customary charge when applying the provision of 55 Pa. Code §1187.110 (relating to the Private Pay Rate Adjustment).

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Bureau of Long Term Care Programs
 Division of Rate Setting
 P.O. Box 2675
 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
 (717) 787-1171

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.