

**VENTILATOR ASSISTED CHILDREN/HOME PROGRAM
RESPITE CARE
GENERAL INFORMATION**

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is respite care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care that provides temporary relief to parents. • Respite care is not intended to cover nursing hours that have been approved by your insurance company or that your nursing agency cannot staff. • Respite care is intended to supplement nursing hours approved by your insurance company in order to provide your family with a relief from care.
Who can provide respite care?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Nurse (RN) • Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) • Home Health Aides (HHA)
How much can I pay the respite care providers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN = up to \$27/hour • LPN = up to \$22/hour • HHA = up to \$15/hour
Can the providers receive extra money for holidays or overtime?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, the VAC/HP only provides funding at the maximum hourly rates listed above.
Where can I find respite care providers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through your nursing agency, if they are willing to accept the VA/HP hourly nursing rates, or • By independently-hiring them. The parent assumes responsibility to interview, train, credential and hire the provider.
If I privately hire my respite care providers, how will they get paid?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each family submits VAC/HP timesheets with accompanying VAC/HP progress notes for the hours worked by each respite care provider. • The VAC/HP mails a check to each respite care provider for hours worked. • See “Reimbursement Guidelines for Respite Care - PRIVATE HIRE” for detailed information.
If I privately hire my respite care providers, what forms and credentials do I need to submit to the VAC/HP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider Form • Current PA RN/LPN License • Current CPR Card • Current Social Security or PA Driver’s License • Child Abuse Clearance Check • Criminal Background Clearance Check
If I use a nursing agency for respite care, how will the nurses get paid?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nurses will be paid directly by your nursing agency. • See “Reimbursement Guidelines for Respite Care - AGENCY” for detailed information.
How much respite care can we use?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to ongoing changes in patient enrollment and budget limitations, the VAC/HP evaluates this information on a quarterly (every 3 months) basis. • Families are notified, in writing, about the number of available respite hours for each quarter.
If my child has insurance that covers respite care, can we use VA/HP funds for this service?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. All insurance funds that are available for respite care must be used before the VAC/HP funds can be used. The VAC/HP is considered payor of last resort. • Families who have 24 hour/day nursing care approved through their insurance carrier are not eligible to use respite care.

If you have any questions about respite care, please call the VAC/HP offices.

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