



# Division of Specialized Care for Children

## Nursing Services

Medicaid provides nursing services to help families take care of their child's medical needs. The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) approves and pays for in-home shift nursing services. HFS pays a flat hourly rate to the nursing agency. The University of Illinois Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) helps to coordinate and monitor the nursing services through the Home Care Program.

### Nursing Services

- A DSCC-approved, HFS enrolled nursing agency provides nursing services.
- Nursing Allocation is approved using a monthly dollar amount, which ensures flexibility in nurses being able to work varying shifts throughout the month. The approval letter also provides an estimated weekly amount.
- Nursing is reviewed on a regular basis, initially and annually. Added reviews occur when a major change in your child's medical condition may affect how much nursing is needed.
- Unused resource allowances don't transfer to the next month.
- If you disagree with the approved resource allowance, you may file an appeal or request a medically based exception.



### Respite Hours

- Only available for those eligible for the MFTD waiver.
- Provides occasional caregiving relief for the family.
- Offered on a time-limited basis.
- Planned in advance with the current nursing agency.
- HFS approves 336 respite hours in a year, starting with the first day.
- HFS pays for nursing.
- May not exceed the annual hours set in the plan.
- Unused hours don't transfer to the next year.





## Emergency Hours

- HFS approves for a limited period of time, based on the need.
- A parent may request when the child is seriously ill or there is a physician-documented, short-term medical need of the primary caregiver(s).
- HFS may approve to prevent the child's hospital admission.
- The child's doctor must agree and request the hours in writing.
- Emergency hours don't replace the monthly resource allowance or respite hours.
- Are provided by the current nursing agency.

## Limitations to Nursing

HFS does not pay the cost of travel or extra if the nurses work nights, weekends or holidays. There may be times when nursing services are not available to help the family. When nursing is not available, the family must provide all necessary in-home care.

**Contact us at (800) 322-3722  
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information!**

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