UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

Division of Specialized Care for Children

PROVIDER NOTICE

Date: July 22, 2026

Dear Home Nursing Agencies and Children's Community-Based Healthcare Centers,

We have an important update about respite hours available to families through the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Those Who Are Medically Fragile and Technology Dependent (MFTD waiver).

WHAT IS CHANGING?

Currently, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) renews each participant's 336 hours of annual respite services based on their individual MFTD waiver enrollment date.

Beginning Sept. 1, 2026, all respite hours for MFTD participants will reset annually on Sept. 1.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- On Sept. 1, 2026, all waiver participant respite hours will reset to 336 hours. They will continue to renew each year on Sept. 1.
- As respite does not roll over, there is no risk of losing any respite hours with this change.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE HAPPENING?

Aligning the respite year across the program will:

- Make it easier to know when respite hours will renew each year for each waiver participant.
- Provide clear, consistent timelines for families and care teams.
- Improve communication and planning for services.

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PRIOR APPROVAL RESPITE REMINDERS:

- Respite services are available only at the request of the legally responsible adult (LRA). Agencies should never initiate or use respite hours without the family's clear permission
- Agencies must contact the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) Care Coordinator and complete the Respite Prior Approval Request Form and receive written notice of approval from DSCC before providing respite.
- Agencies should submit the request with as much notice as possible (at least 48 business hours in advance). DSCC cannot guarantee the review and decision of requests if agencies submit them less than two business days before the requested respite provision.
- Review the Respite Prior Approval Provider Notice for more information.

We are happy to help you with any questions you may have. Please contact your DSCC Nursing Agency Liaison.

Thank you for your continued service to the Home Care Program's participants and their families.