

Level of Care VI: Respite Care- Child and Adolescent

I. Principles for Medical Necessity Criteria:

Respite Care should be considered a necessary level of care to provide support to family caregivers and maintain Individuals under age 18 in the current least restrictive necessary level of care and to prevent escalation to more intensive levels. This service is intended to support caregivers for Individuals living in the home environment. Individuals already in out-of-home placements such as group homes or other congregate facilities are not appropriate for referral. Families whose ability to function is affected by the duties of childcare constitute the families to be referred for this service.

When an Individual has a mental disorder that requires professional evaluation and treatment, he/she should be treated at the least intensive setting able to meet the individual's medical needs.

Satisfaction of all admission and continued care criteria must be documented in the clinical record based upon the conditions and factors identified below before treatment will be authorized.

II. Admission Criteria:	<p><i>All of the following criteria are necessary for admission:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The consumer has a PMHS specialty mental health DSM-IV diagnosis and has emotional and/or behavioral problems which stress the ability of the caregiver to provide for the Individual in the home. B. The family caregiver's ability to participate in normal activities of daily life in the community, including employment, training opportunities, other family obligations, and social connection is compromised as a result of caring for the Individual. C. The additional stress on the caregiver of caring for the Individual puts the Individual at risk of out-of-home placement.
III. Severity of Need and Intensity of Service	<p>Medical necessity for the use of Respite Care must be documented by the presence of all of the criteria. When an Individual has a mental disorder that requires professional evaluation and treatment, caring for this Individual can create a burden on caregivers. As a result, the level of burden on the family caregivers is as important a dimension in determining medical necessity as the clinical status of the Individual.</p>
IV. Continued Stay Criteria:	<p>Not applicable</p>