

Residential Respite Service (RS) for Elders

Objectives

- ✧ A form of temporary/short-term residential care service for elders
- ✧ Providing temporary relief to family members or relatives who are the main caregivers of elders requiring a certain degree of personal care whilst resident in normal environment within the community
- ✧ Forming a meaningful component in a wide spectrum of social services aimed at encouraging and helping elders to continue living in the community for as long as possible

Background

- ✧ Residential RS was implemented in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly (RCHEs) as a regular provision effective from 1 April 1991.
- ✧ Following a review of RS in RCHEs in May 1999, the provision of residential RS has been revamped, publicity enhanced and application procedures streamlined with effect from 1 April 2000.
- ✧ *Apart from the 11 designated care-and-attention (C&A) respite places, residential RS has been implemented in all subvented RCHEs and contract homes by using casual vacancies.*
- ✧ The review also recommended, among others, that nursing homes (NHs) may consider providing RS by using casual vacancies when available so as to provide relief to carers in the community. *Residential RS in NHs, including nursing home places in contract homes, is therefore introduced with effect from April 2003 by using casual vacancies.*

Target group

The target group of the service is the elders who require short-term residential care placement in order to provide temporary relief to family members or relatives who are the elders' main caregivers.

Eligibility criteria

Elders are considered eligible for RS if they are :

- aged 60 or over
- in demonstrated need of short-term residential care, to enable family members who care for them to have a break from caring on a long-term basis
- physically and mentally fit for communal living
- free from contagious diseases
- requiring a level of personal and nursing care corresponding to the admission criteria of the particular type of residential service
- taken back into care by the family upon expiry of the respite period

Type of Service

Service Type	Respite Service	
	Type of places used for RS	Advanced Booking
Home for the Aged	<i>Casual vacancy places</i> in all RCHEs with meal places	up to <u>2 weeks</u>
C&A Home	11 <i>designated places</i> (Annex I)	up to <u>6 months</u>
	<i>Casual vacancy places</i> in all RCHEs with C&A places	up to <u>2 weeks</u>
NH	<i>Casual vacancy places</i> in NHs	up to <u>2 weeks</u>

Duration of Stay

- ✧ RS rendered to each elder on each occasion shall neither be less than 24 hours, nor more than 6 weeks which is also the maximum accumulative duration of repeated use of the service in a continuous period within the 12 months preceding the date of admission for RS.
- ✧ For cases applying for repeated use of the service, the referring worker should check if the duration of stay has exceeded the requirement.
- ✧ Special consideration can be given to individual cases who need to extend the maximum period of stay for RS to more than 42 days. The referrers should closely monitor the situation and recommend a viable welfare plan for the elder in consultation with the superintendent of the home concerned and the Planning and Coordinating Team of the respective district as necessary.

Undertaking

- ✧ In the interests of elders, family members will be required to sign an undertaking to take their elders home at the end of the respite period. The referring worker should work with the family to honour this obligation.
- ✧ Residents of respite places, like the long-term residents, will be asked to undertake to observe any rule and regulation during their stay. They might also be required to sign declaration or authorization papers.

Fees

Home-for-the-Aged	: \$50 per day
Care-and-Attention Home	: \$60 per day
Nursing Home	: \$70 per day

Application Procedures

