

Information Note on Emergency Placement in Residential Care Services for Elders

(A) Introduction

Emergency placement is provided in subvented care and attention (C&A) homes and nursing homes (NHs) to offer temporary or short-term residential care service for elders. It serves the objective of preventing the elders from risks owing to their lack of immediate care or residence until their next-of-kin are located for the elders' restoration to families, or other alternatives are arranged.

(B) Provision of Emergency Places

Emergency placement service is provided in subvented C&A Homes and NHs in the form of designated places in the following types of services –

- (1) Care & Attention (C&A) Home; and
- (2) Nursing Home (NH)

[List of these homes](#) can be downloaded from SWD Homepage.

(C) Service Target

Elders aged 65 years or above¹ who meet the admission criteria of C&A Home/NH², the condition (f) below, and one or more of the conditions (a) to (e) below may be accepted for emergency placement –

- (a) homeless without the prospect of immediate restoration to family; or
- (b) evicted (or facing imminent eviction) from the accommodations for various reasons; or
- (c) fit for discharge from hospital upon completion of medical treatment yet having difficulty in taking care of oneself or having no suitable care-givers to attend to; or

¹ Persons aged between 60 and 64 may apply if there is a proven need.

² Referring workers may make reference to interRAI-HC in determining the type of service required, although interRAI-HC assessment is not necessary for admission to emergency placement.

- (d) in acute immediate need of alternative placement due to relationship problem with family member(s) / co-tenant(s) at existing residence and in weak health³ to the extent that immediate removal/transfer is necessary to avoid risks to lives, such as elder abuse cases; or
- (e) unable to be taken care of by care-givers owing to acute unforeseeable crisis situation such as hospitalisation or imprisonment of care-givers or sudden deterioration of the elder's health conditions which cannot be coped with by the care-givers and community support services with the result that the elder's continuous stay in his/her home will pose dangers to his/her health; and
- (f) fit for communal living and having no persistent tendency to violence, self-destruction/self-injury or disruptive behaviour.

(D) Application Procedures

Referrals for admission to emergency placement should be made by a social worker. Elders or persons acting on behalf of the elders may approach casework service units (e.g. Integrated Family Service Centres / Integrated Services Centres and Medical Social Services Units) or elderly service units for assistance if required.

(E) Duration of Stay

The period of stay should not exceed three months, other than very exceptional circumstances for which the referring worker would have to provide justifications as well as a prospective discharge plan. Emergency placement should not be taken as a solution to meeting the long-term placement needs of elders.

³ Please refer to the respective criteria for admission to different types of residential service.

(F) Fees

Elders occupying emergency placement are exempted from payment of service fees for the first three months of stay, in order to allow adequate time for arrangement of financial and other forms of assistance, if required. Full payment will start from the fourth month onwards for the services they receive, according to the standard monthly fees for the respective types of home.

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Social Welfare Department
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