

## Information Note on Residential Respite Service for the Elderly Persons

### (A) Introduction

Residential Respite Service (RS) is a form of temporary or short-term residential care service for elderly persons. It serves the objective of providing temporary relief for family members or relatives who are the main caregivers of elderly persons requiring a certain degree of personal care whilst residing in the community. It aims at encouraging and helping elderly persons to continue living in the community for as long as possible.

### (B) Provision of Residential Respite Service

Residential RS (**designated places**) is provided in subvented places in the form of designated places in the following types of service –

- (1) Subvented Care & Attention (C&A) Home;
- (2) Contract Home (*care-and-attention places or nursing-home places*); and
- (3) Private Home participated in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS).

List of these homes can be downloaded from SWD Homepage at <http://www.swd.gov.hk/> by clicking on Public Services, then Services for the Elderly and then Residential RS for the Elderly Persons.

Residential RS is also provided in all subvented residential care homes for the elderly, subvented Nursing Homes (NHs), contract homes and private homes participating in EBPS through the use of **casual vacancies** of the subsidized places.

Service Type	Respite Service	
	Type of places used for RS	Advance Booking
Home for the Aged	<i>Casual vacancies</i> in all subvented RCHEs with meal places	up to <b><u>2 weeks</u></b>
C&A Home / NH	<i>Designated places including care-and-attention places in subvented RCHEs and care-and-attention places or nursing-home places in contract homes</i>	up to <b><u>6 months</u></b>
	<i>Casual vacancies of subsidised places</i> in all subvented RCHEs/contract homes/EBPS homes	up to <b><u>2 weeks</u></b>
NH	<i>Casual vacancies</i> in subvented NHs/contract homes	up to <b><u>2 weeks</u></b>

### **(C) Service Target**

Elderly persons who are aged 60 or over are considered eligible for RS if they are :

- (1) 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;
- (2) physically and mentally fit for communal living;
- (3) requiring a level of personal and nursing care corresponding to the admission criteria of the particular type of residential service; and
- (4) taken back into care by the family upon expiry of the respite period

### **(D) Application Procedure**

Referrals for admission to residential RS should be made by a social worker. Elderly persons or their families may approach casework service units (e.g. Integrated Family Service Centres, Medical Social Services Units, District Elderly Community Centres, Neighbourhood Elderly Centres, Social Centres for the Elderly, Day Care Centres/Units for the Elderly, Enhanced Home and Community Care Services Teams, Integrated Home Care Services Teams and Home Help Team) who will assess the elder's needs and make referrals to the residential care homes for the elderly or NHs concerned if considered suitable.

For elderly persons or their families in urgent need of Residential RS for the Elderly during non-office hours, they may directly approach the service operator of private residential care homes for the elderly under the EBPS providing residential RS for assistance. Non-office hours are (i) Monday to Saturday, from 5pm to 9am of the following day, and (ii) Sunday and Public Holidays, from 9am to 9am of the following day.

In the interest of elderly persons, the family members will be required to sign an undertaking to take the elderly persons back to their care 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 the home's rule and regulation during their stay.

### **(E) Duration of Stay**

Residential RS rendered to each elderly person 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 case applying for repeated use of the service, referring worker should check if the duration of stay has exceeded the requirement.

Special consideration can be given to individual case which needs to extend the maximum period of stay for RS to more than 42 days. The referring worker 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 Co-ordinating Team of the respective district as necessary.

**(F) Fees**

Home-for-the-Aged places	\$52 per day
Care-and-Attention places	\$62 per day
Contract Home places	\$62 per day
Nursing Home places	\$72 per day

Elderly Branch  
Social Welfare Department  
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# Application Procedures

**Advance Reservation :** # Designated RS (up to **6 months** in advance)  
# Casual Vacancy RS (up to **2 weeks** in advance)

**Elderly applicant :** in need for residential RS

## Non-office Hours #

### 1. Self approach the service operator of EBPS Homes\* for assistance.

- To check the availability of Designated RS Places in EBPS private homes from SWD Homepage (or the Vacancy Enquiry System which will be implemented by end of 2019) and direct contact with the service operator of the EBPS private home for admission arrangement of:
  - Designated RS place

### 2. Direct liaison and make arrangement for the admission with the EBPS home, and come for admission as scheduled.

## Office Hours

### 1. Approach Casework Service Units for assistance.

- To enquire the residential RS for the elderly and the availability of
  - Designated RS
  - Casual Vacancy RS

### 2. The social worker follows up the application procedure.

- Referring social worker, upon making reservation, will submit the *Application Form* (Annex II), *MEF* and *chest x-ray report* direct to the home within one week to confirm reservation.
- MDS-HC assessment is not required.

- In case there is a need to extend the duration of stay of over 42 days, the referring worker who follows through the welfare plan should consult the superintendent of the home and the PCT of the respective district, and apply for extension.
- PCT in the respective district is to oversee the service and give advice.

#### Service operator of EBPS homes

- To arrange placement for elder applicant

#### Service operator of subvented RCHEs & NHs

- To arrange placement for elder applicant

#### Service operator of contract homes

- To arrange placement for elder applicant

### 3. Admission

### 4. Service Operator of EBPS Home assists the elderly person to complete the medical check-up with MEF and other relevant medical report.

### 5. Service Operator of EBPS Home makes referral whenever necessary.

# Non-office hours are (i) Monday to Saturday, from 5pm to 9am of the following day, and (ii) Sunday and Public Holidays, from 9am to 9am of the following day.

\* Private residential homes for the elderly participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme (EBPS).