

Brief on Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities

Background

To fully address the needs of persons with severe physical disabilities and give them targeted support, the Social Welfare Department implements the Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities (ISS) and regularises the two assistance programmes under Community Care Fund (CCF), namely “Provision of Special Subsidy to Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities for Renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment” and “Provision of Special Subsidy to Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities for Purchasing Medical Consumables Related to Respiratory Support Medical Equipment” on 1.11.2014. This will render support to persons with severe physical disabilities who need constant attention and care by relieving them of the burden of medical equipment and medical consumables, and enable them to continue living in their familiar community. The ISS, implemented through case management approach, will provide one-stop support services, including casework counselling, occupational therapy / physiotherapy / speech therapy, nursing care service and financial support service.

Service Objectives

- To strengthen support services for persons with severe physical disabilities to prepare for their discharge from hospital and follow up with integrated home-based services with a view to facilitating their full integration into the community;
- To provide a special subsidy for renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment (RSME) and purchasing medical consumables; and
- To strengthen support for their family members / carers and alleviate their stress.

Eligibility Criteria

Cash Subsidy

- (a) Respiratory Support Medical Equipment (RSME) dependents¹; and
- (b) Renting RSME listed in Annex 1 and/or using medical consumables listed in Annex 2; and

¹ To ascertain the applicant's need for RSME and medical consumables, recommendation from the medical / paramedical professionals from the public hospitals / clinics may be required.

- (c) The monthly household income shall not exceed the income limit which is equivalent to 150% of the Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) of corresponding household size published in the most updated “Quarterly Report on General Household Survey” by the Census & Statistics Department at the time of application.; and
- (d) The family’s asset shall not exceed the asset limit for public rental housing applications under the Housing Authority. The asset limit prescribed for public housing applications under the Housing Authority at the time of application shall prevail. and
- (e) Without receiving any relevant subsidy for the RSME / medical consumables from other funding sources².

AND

- (f) Living in the community and receiving Higher Disability Allowance (HDA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme; or
- (g) Those being hospitalised but with a definitive discharge plan, and having the need to rent or having started renting the RSME listed in Annex 1 and/or purchased medical consumables listed in Annex 2 yet without receiving any relevant assistance, and whose level of disability as assessed by medical doctors of public hospitals / clinics are equivalent to that for receiving HDA under the SSA Scheme; or
- (h) RSME dependents who had received HDA under the SSA Scheme, but converted to receive Normal Disability Allowance (NDA) because they turned to receiving care in residential institutions subsidised by the Government (including subsidised places in subvented / contract homes and residential care homes under various bought place schemes) or any public hospital or institution under the Hospital Authority, or boarding in a special school under the Education Bureau and still have to rent or have started renting the RSME listed in Annex 1 and/or purchased medical consumables listed in Annex 2.

² For cash subsidy to rent RSME, the applicants should not be currently receiving from the Government, statutory boards or any charitable fund (e.g. CSSA, Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund, Samaritan Fund, Yan Chai Tetraplegic Fund, Yan Chai Caring Fund for Severely Disabled, etc.) to pay for the rent for the respiratory support medical equipment, and no such assistance for the purchase of the respiratory support medical equipment has been received within three years before the making of the application unless the equipment is out of order. For cash subsidy to purchase medical consumables, the applicants should not be currently receiving from the Government, statutory boards or any charitable fund (e.g. CSSA, Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund, Samaritan Fund, Yan Chai Tetraplegic Fund, Yan Chai Caring Fund for Severely Disabled, etc.) for the purchase of medical consumables.

Integrated Home-based Support Service

- (a) Persons with severe physical disabilities requiring RSME and constant attendance, and living in the community (irrespective of whether they are entitled to the cash subsidy specified above); or
- (b) Tetraplegia patients living in the community; or
- (c) Persons with severe physical disabilities who are assessed by the Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist to have rehabilitation / care needs comparable to tetraplegic patients; or
- (d) Persons with physical disabilities who are assessed to be eligible for the service in accordance with the Assessment Tool for Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities³; or
- (e) For service users of (a), (b), (c) and (d) above taking accommodation in residential institutions subsidised by the Government or any public hospitals and institutions under the Hospital Authority, or boarding in special schools, services will only be provided during the period when they stay at home during home leave; or
- (f) For service users of (a), (b), (c) and (d) above living in self-financing homes for persons with disabilities, personal care, escort, transportation and home respite services would not be arranged as these services would have been provided by the home operators as a regular service for service users.

Programme Content

Cash Subsidy

- Provision of assistance programmes for RSME dependents:
 - 1. Special Subsidy for Renting Respiratory Support Medical Equipment
 - 2. Special Subsidy for Purchasing Medical Consumables
- Subsidy level for the two programmes is both capped at \$2,500 per month, relevant financial assessment on applicants' income and assets are required.

³ With effect from March 2020, eligible service users for the service would include those assessed through the Assessment Tool for Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities as having very high level of nursing care need or/and high level of functional impairment.

Integrated Home-based Support Service

- Case Management Service
- Pre-discharge Support Services
- Post-discharge Home-based Professional Support Services
 - (i) Nursing care
 - (ii) Rehabilitation training⁴
 - (iii) Personal care service
 - (iv) Escort service
 - (v) Carer support service
 - (vi) Home respite service
 - (vii) Social work service
 - (viii) Transportation service
 - (ix) Out-of-office hour emergency support
 - (x) Meal support service (To be coordinated by case managers based on service users' need. Meal fee to be paid by service users.)

[Persons with severe physical disabilities over the age of 60 can opt for (1) Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities / Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities or (2) services for the elderly including Integrated Home Care Services / Enhanced Home and Community Care Services / Day Care Centre / Unit for the Elderly / Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly if the applicant is assessed to be eligible for the service. The applicant cannot receive both kinds of services at the same time. For the applicant with severe physical disabilities under the age of 60, he/she can only choose Home Care Service for Persons with Severe Disabilities or Integrated Support Service for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities depending on their eligibility for the respective service. To avoid service duplication, applicant / guardian / appointee is required to make a declaration for the service operator of not using similar services of other subvented non-government organisations during service application, and gives consent for the service operator to confirm information with relevant agencies.]

Fee and charges

Category of services	Fee charging
(I) Full package of services	\$1,002 (monthly ceiling charges)
Services under the Basic Package: • Personal care • Escort service • Home respite service • Rehabilitation training • Nursing care (provided by health worker)	\$33 per hour \$33 per hour \$33 per hour \$33 per hour \$33 per session*

⁴ With effect from March 2020, apart from provision of physiotherapy and occupational therapy, rehabilitation training has been enhanced to include speech therapy service.

• Home visit by Occupational Therapist / Physiotherapist / Speech Therapist • Home visit by Nurse	\$52 per session* \$43 per session* * Each session lasts at least 45 minutes
(II) Other Service • Transportation service	\$10 per trip

Application Channels

Persons eligible for the service can either approach the Service Operator or apply for the service through their social workers.

Application Procedures (For Cash Subsidy Only)

Persons who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for the subsidy. If an applicant is aged below 18 or has been medically certified to be unfit to make a statement, the application should be made by the guardian / appointee currently approved by SWD to receive NDA / HDA under the SSA Scheme on his/her behalf. Applicants / guardians / appointees are required to submit the completed application forms (**the application form can be downloaded from the Social Welfare Department website (www.swd.gov.hk) or obtained from the Service Operator**) together with all necessary documents set out below by post or by hand to the Service Operator according to the residential address of the applicant (for application of subsidy under these two assistance programmes at the same time, only one application form and one set of the supporting documents are required to be submitted):

- A copy of the applicant's identification document
- A copy of the guardian / appointee's HKIC (if applicable), which is not required for application made by a social worker of SWD
- The following documents with name(s) of the applicant (or his/her relatives and friends) specified:

For application under RSME Programme only:

- a copy of supporting documents of renting **all** RSMEs (refers to RSME listed in Annex 1) by the applicant (e.g. receipt / record of rental payment).

For application under Consumables Programme only:

- a copy of supporting documents of using RSME and purchasing medical consumables (refers to medical consumables listed in Annex 2) by the applicant (e.g. receipt of purchase, approval document(s) of relevant assistance, maintenance record or receipt of rental payment, etc.).

For application under these two assistance programmes at the same time:

- a copy of supporting documents of renting **all** RSMEs (refers to RSME listed in Annex 1) and purchasing medical consumables (refers to medical consumables listed in Annex 2).

For applicants being hospitalised:

- Under special circumstances where an applicant is being hospitalised (but with a definitive discharge plan), the applicant may submit the original document(s) supporting his/her need of using RSME as assessed by medical / paramedical professionals of public hospitals / clinics. A copy of the required supporting documents for the aforesaid two assistance programmes under application should be submitted when the rental / use of the relevant RSME commences.
- The original document(s) supporting the applicant's need of using other RSME and medical consumables (i.e. RSME not listed in Annex 1 and medical consumables not listed in Annex 2) as assessed by medical / paramedical professionals of public hospitals / clinics (if applicable).

[In making an application, it is not required to attach the relevant financial proof. The Service Operator will invite applicants / guardians / appointees to submit the proof during the investigation stage.]

Vetting of Applications and Payment of the Subsidy (For Cash Subsidy Only)

- The assistance programmes under the ISS operate on household-based applications with specified income and asset limits for different household sizes. The Service Operator will determine the rate of subsidy an eligible individual is entitled to for the whole period based on the monthly household income at the time of application. The subsidy level of the two assistance programmes are both capped at \$2,500 per month.
- Income limit: set with reference to 150% of the MMDHI published in the most updated "Quarterly Report on General Household Survey" by Census & Statistics Department at the time of application.
 - (a) Full-rate subsidy for eligible service users with a family household income at or below 100% of MMDHI (capped at \$2,500 per month)
 - (b) Three-quarters subsidy for those with family household income above 100% to 125% of MMDHI (capped at \$1,875 per month)
 - (c) Half-rate subsidy for those with family household income above 125% to 150% of MMDHI (capped at \$1,250 per month)

- Asset limit: adopts the prevailing asset limit for public rental housing applications under the Housing Authority at the time of application but the self-occupied property in which the applicant is living with his/her household members in Hong Kong and their tools of trade are excluded from the calculation of net asset value.
- The amount of subsidy disbursed is subject to the actual cost of the recognised item(s) claimed and capped at the aforementioned rate. Upon the completion of financial assessment, subsidies will be calculated from the date of application and be disbursed to the eligible applicants on quarterly basis. The Service Operator will normally review the eligibility of the applicant for the subsidy on an annual basis. The subsidies will be payable to the eligible applicants on a quarterly basis by crediting to their bank accounts for receiving disability allowance.
- The Service Operator will regularly verify the quarterly subsidy to which an eligible individual is entitled. The subsidy will be terminated if the beneficiary becomes ineligible (e.g. ceased to be a RSME dependent or change of the family's financial position) during the subsidy period. If he/she becomes eligible again, he/she may approach the Service Operator for re-application.

Responsibilities of the Applicant / Guardian / Appointee (For Cash Subsidy Only)

The applicant / guardian / appointee will be required to provide detailed information on his/her financial position and other relevant information to the Service Operator for verification. Information provided by the applicants / guardians / appointees must be true, correct and complete. In case of any change of the relevant information (e.g. ceased to use respiratory support medical equipment or change of the family's financial position), they should report the change to the Service Operator as soon as possible. Any subsidy certified as overpayment will have to be paid back.

Service Operators

Regional Clusters	Hong Kong Island and Kowloon	New Territories
Serving Districts	Central, Western, Southern, Islands, Eastern, Wan Chai, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin, Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O	Sha Tin, Tai Po, North, Sai Kung, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai
Service Operator	Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service	Po Leung Kuk
Address	Units 6-10, G/F, Lai Tak House, Lai On Estate, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon Units 501-502, On Hing House, Hing Wah (II) Estate, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	LG2/F, Ching Lung House, Ching Fu Court, 18 Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi, New Territories LG/F, Social Service Building, Fu Tip Estate, 11 Chung Nga Road, Tai Po, New Territories
Tel. No.	3959 1700	3547 1171
Fax No.	3425 4994	3547 1170
Email Address	iss@yang.org.hk	iss.apply@poleungkuk.org.hk

Rehabilitation and Medical Social Services Branch
Social Welfare Department
February 2025

Respiratory Support Medical Equipment Commonly Required
by Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities ^(Note 1)

1. BiPAP Machine (高低正氣壓睡眠機)
2. CPAP Machine (連續正氣壓睡眠機)
3. Humidification System (加濕系統)
4. In-exsufflator Cough Machine (咳痰機)
5. Oximeter (血氧定量計)
6. Oxygen Concentrator (製氧機)
7. Suction Machine (抽痰機)
8. Suction Pump (真空抽吸泵)
9. Ventilator (呼吸機)
10. Portable Oxygen Concentrator (手提氧氣機) ^(Note 2)
11. Oxygen Conserving Device (省氧器) ^(Note 2)
12. Oxygen Cylinder (氧氣瓶) ^(Note 2)

Note 1: If the applicant is assessed by medical / paramedical professionals of public hospitals / clinics that other respiratory support medical equipment (RSME) not listed above is necessary for his/her use, the relevant original documentary proof can be submitted for consideration.

Note 2: As the amount of subsidy disbursed is subject to the actual cost of the recognised item(s) claimed, this item has been added to the list after seeking professional advice on the RSME or ancillary equipment relating to RSME recommended by Service Operators upon service commencement to meet the actual needs of service users and to facilitate them to claim the relevant expenditure.

(Rev.2/2015)

Medical Consumables Commonly Required
for Persons with Severe Physical Disabilities Depending on
Respiratory Support Medical Equipment^(Note 1 and 2)

Care Areas 護理範圍	Medical Consumables 醫療消耗品
Respiratory Support 輔助呼吸	1. Filter of ventilator machine (呼吸機過濾器) 2. Filter box for ventilator machine (呼吸機用隔紙) 3. Tubing for ventilator machine (呼吸機喉管) 4. Tracheostomy tube (氣管造口導管) 5. Tracheostomy inner tube/ cannula (氣管造口內導管) 6. Tracheostomy tube holder (氣管造口導管固定帶) 7. Tracheostomy connection tubing (氣管造口接駁喉管) 8. CPAP/BiPAP mask/ nasal mask (睡眠機面罩/鼻罩) 9. CPAP/BiPAP straps (睡眠機頭帶) 10. CPAP/BiPAP tubing (睡眠機氣喉) 11. CPAP/BiPAP nebulizer (睡眠機噴霧器) 12. CPAP/BiPAP nebulizer mask (睡眠機噴霧器面罩) 13. Disposable oxygen sensor (即棄血氧感測器) 14. Distilled water for humidifier (加濕器用蒸餾水) 15. Heat and moisture exchanger (熱與濕氣交換濕化器) 16. Oxygen mask (氧氣面罩) 17. Nasal catheter/ Cannula (鼻導管) 18. Oxygen connection tubing (氧氣接駁喉管) 19. Oxygen cylinder refill price (氧氣瓶充氣費) 20. Aerochamber (面罩噴霧劑助吸器) 21. Ambu bag (人工急救甦醒球)
Suctioning 抽吸	1. Filter of suction machine (抽痰機過濾器) 2. Connection tubing for suction machine (抽痰機接駁喉管) 3. Suction catheter (吸痰喉) 4. Suction Pro bottle (儲痰器) 5. Vacuum control connector (抽痰喉連接器)
Feeding 餵食	1. Feeding tubes [including nasogastric tube and Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG)] (餵飼管，包括鼻胃管及胃造瘻餵飼管) 2. Feeding funnel (餵食瓶) 3. Feeding tubing (餵食管/奶喉) 4. Feeding bag (餵食袋/奶袋) 5. pH paper (酸鹼值試紙) 6. Thickener (凝固粉) 7. Dietary supplements and milk formula/soy formula (營養補充品及奶粉/豆奶) 8. Mouth swab stick (洗口棒)

Continence Control 排泄控制	1. Urinary catheters (導尿管) 2. Urine bag (尿袋) 3. Urine bag hanger (for long term foley only) [尿袋架 (如需長期使用導尿管)] 4. Urostomy bag (小便造口袋) 5. Colostomy bag (大便造口袋) 6. Disposable diapers/Booster pad/Adult pull-up diapers (尿片/片芯/尿褲) 7. K-Y jelly (潤滑劑) 8. Measuring jar (量杯)
Dressing / Infection Control 敷料 / 感染控制	1. Disinfectant (消毒劑) 2. Disinfectant for wound dressing (洗傷口消毒藥水) 3. Sterile normal saline solution (無菌生理鹽水) 4. Disposable latex gloves/ Sterile gloves (即棄乳膠手套/無菌手套) 5. Glove or finger glove (手套或手指手套) 6. Disposable dressing set (即棄敷料包) 7. Special wound dressing materials (特別傷口敷料) 8. Sterile cotton products (無菌棉產品) 9. Alcohol swab /alcohol towel/ alcohol tissue (酒精棉/ 酒精棉布/ 酒精紙巾) 10. Sterile gauze/ Sterile keyhole gauze (無菌紗布/無菌 Y 型紗布) 11. Gauze (非消毒紗布) 12. Absorbent cotton wool (脫脂藥棉) 13. Tape (膠布) 14. Bandage (繃帶) 15. Paper mat (墊紙)
Others 其他	1. Syringe (注射器) 2. Lancets and test strips for Glucometer (血糖機採血針及試紙) 3. Reagent Strips for Urinalysis (驗尿試紙) 4. Mask (口罩) 5. Paper towels/ tissue (抹手紙、紙巾) 6. Wet tissue (濕紙巾) 7. Alcohol-based hand rub (酒精搓手液) 8. Air ring for washing hair (充氣洗頭膠圈) 9. No-rinse cleansing agents (免沖洗清潔劑)

Note 1: If the applicant is assessed by medical / paramedical professionals of public hospitals / clinics that other medical consumables not listed above are necessary for his/her use, the relevant original documentary proof can be submitted for consideration.

Note 2: As the amount of subsidy disbursed is subject to the actual cost of the recognised item(s) claimed, this annex has been amended in February 2015 and October 2016 respectively after seeking professional advice on the medical consumables recommended by Service Operators to meet the actual needs of service users and to facilitate them to claim the relevant expenditure.

(Rev.3/2021)