

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 330, MS 3-22
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-2773



August 3, 2009

TO: ALL IN-HOME RESPITE AGENCIES (SERVICE CODE 862)

**SUBJECT: STATUTORY CHANGES REGARDING IN-HOME RESPITE WORKER
INCIDENTAL MEDICAL SERVICES TRAINING AND RESPITE AGENCY
RATE INCREASE**

This is to provide you with highlights of recent statutory changes, 2009 Statutes, Assembly Bill 4th Extraordinary, Chapter 9, and how these changes impact the in-home respite care agencies and the responsibilities of the regional centers.

Existing law authorizes an in-home respite worker, as defined, to perform gastrostomy care and feeding of regional center clients, after completing designated training.

Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) Section 4686 is amended to expand the services that may be provided by an in-home respite worker who is not a licensed health care professional and who is trained by a licensed health care professional to perform incidental medical services for consumers. Incidental medical services provided by trained in-home respite workers are restricted to the following:

- 1) Colostomy and ileostomy: changing bags and cleaning stoma.
- 2) Urinary catheter: emptying and changing bags and care of catheter site.
- 3) Gastrostomy: feeding, hydration, cleaning stoma, and adding medication as ordered by a physician or nurse practitioner.

WIC 4686 also specifies that this may only occur for consumers with stable conditions, and as was previously stated in this section, after successful completion of training. Furthermore, identification of in-home respite care for incidental medical services must be included in each consumer's Individual Program Plan.

The existing law specifies that training in gastrostomy services may be provided by a physician or registered nurse or through a gastroenterology or surgical center. The amendment specifies that training in incidental medical services may now also be provided by an in-home respite agency. In-home respite agencies can receive up to \$200 per training to provide 1 to 2 trainings twice annually. The law specifies conditions under which the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) must approve the in-

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home respite agency's training protocol. Training protocols should be sent via email at jfletche@dds.ca.gov or mailed to:

Department of Developmental Services
1600 Ninth Street, Room 330, MS-22
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attention: JoEllen Fletcher

The amendments provide for a fifty-cent (\$.50) per hour wage increase and an eight-cent (\$.08) per hour benefit increase for the hours the in-home respite agency is providing incidental medical services.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding this topic, please feel free to contact JoEllen Fletcher, at (916) 654-2133 or jfletche@dds.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By Rick Ingraham

RICK INGRAHAM, Manager
Children and Family Services Branch

cc: Robert Baldo, Association of Regional Center Agencies
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Regional Center Directors
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