

Health Services for Children with Special Needs, Inc. (HSCSN) would like to inform you of a new, temporary value-added benefit. This benefit is for skilled services to relieve the primary Caregiver of an enrollee with skilled needs and is called Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief.

The current respite services benefit does not include skilled services. HSCSN is offering a temporary benefit to relieve caregivers caring for an enrollee with significant skilled needs. The purpose of this temporary benefit is so that caregivers can identify a backup caregiver who will be trained to provide skilled services. The backup caregiver will then be prepared to relieve the primary caregiver in the future.

The Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief benefit is described below:

- HSCSN enrollees under the age of twenty-one (21) may receive Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief.
- Enrollees have up to 50 hours of in-home or 3-days of inpatient facility of Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief for the 12-month period beginning July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and ending July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. You are unable to transfer any unused hours from year to year.
- Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief requests are required at least ten (10) days in advance for shifts of 12 hours or less and at least three (3) weeks in advance for shifts of more than 12 hours.
- Urgent requests for SNCR services will be considered case-by-case if other requirements are met. Urgent Requests will be approved based on staffing availability for skilled nursing.
- You may contact your HSCSN Care Manager to ask for Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief. The Care Manager will inform you if Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief is available within 5 business days. If services are not available for the date(s) you asked for, the Care Manager will provide another date(s) for Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief.
- HSCSN requires the reason(s) why you are requesting Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief.
- To receive Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief services, the parent/caregiver must identify a responsible adult who can be trained to meet the enrollee's skilled needs during the relief period.
- Eligibility Criteria for Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief:
  - Enrollees who receive private duty nursing or skilled nursing services already
  - Enrollees who do not receive nursing services but are technology-dependent or have significant daily skilled needs. Please discuss with your Care Manager to confirm if the enrollee meets the criteria.

As a reminder, Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief only covers in-home nursing services or a 3-day facility admission to HSC Pediatric Center. It does not include the following:

- Childcare while you are working or in school;
- Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief more than 3 days in a row.

Please see the enclosed HSCSN Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief Request Form to assist you in requesting Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief. You can also obtain the form from your HSCSN Care Manager or online at [hscsnhealthplan.org/Enrollees/Respite-Services](https://hscsnhealthplan.org/Enrollees/Respite-Services).

To receive a decision for Skilled Nursing for Caregiver Relief within five (5) business days;

- the Caregiver must complete the request form in writing; or
- the request can be communicated verbally to the HSCSN Care Manager; or
- the form can be completed by the caregiver with the home care agency and then submitted to the HSCSN Care Manager

If you have questions about this letter, please contact your HSCSN Care Manager or Customer Care at (202) 467-2737. TTY/TDD users call (202) 467-2709.