

Harbor Regional Center Service Policy

IN-HOME NURSING SERVICES

DEFINITION:

In-home nursing service is designed to protect the medical well-being of an individual and prevent the need for hospitalization.

In-home nursing services include periodic home visits by a licensed nurse for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating an individual's overall medical condition in order to identify potential medical emergencies and the need for changes in care and treatment and/or to provide training to the primary caregiver in the techniques required to provide care.

In-home nursing services also include regularly scheduled nursing shifts of 4 or more hours for the purpose of supplementing the care given by the parent or relative who has been trained to administer nursing care and treatment for his/her family member.

PHILOSOPHY:

Medically fragile and technology dependent children and adults with a developmental disability may have intensive physical support and medical needs that require nursing care, treatment and monitoring. The severity of their condition may indicate that regular monitoring and frequent treatment or interventions are required in order to sustain life. Hospitalization or specialized living environments are often required for these children and adults unless the family can manage the needed care for their family member at home. When such an individual is residing with parents or relatives, in-home nursing services may be necessary to maintain the living arrangement.

Harbor Regional Center believes that families wishing to maintain their family member in the home should be supported in this undertaking while continuing to be responsible for a daily portion of their family member's care.

POLICY:

Prior to any decision to provide nursing services, the regional center shall obtain a comprehensive nursing assessment which must address all of the following:

1. Client's current medical status and documented needs for in-home nursing;
2. Required level of nursing (*i.e.* LVN or RN);
3. Specific medical/nursing needs;
4. Required medications and treatment;
5. Equipment and supplies needed at home;
6. Adequacy and safety of the physical environment of the home;
7. Client's physician's recommendations and medical treatment plan.

Approved by the HRC Board of Trustees March, 2012. Approved by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) July 2012.

Harbor Regional Center may purchase in-home nursing services only as follows:

1. the nursing assessment described above indicates that in-home nursing services are needed to supplement the care provided by the family; and
2. the nursing assessment indicates that in-home nursing services will be effective in protecting the medical well-being of the client as well as in preventing hospitalizations; and
3. services include up to 1 nursing visit per week if the need is for periodic nursing monitoring and training; **or**
4. services include up to 16 hours per day of shift nursing.

If there is another funding source for in-home nursing services, Harbor Regional Center may purchase the difference between the hours provided by the other source and the number of hours identified in the individual/family service plan or 16 hours per day, whichever is less.