



500 Summer St NE E44

Salem, OR, 97301

Voice: 800-336-6016

Fax: 503-945-6873

TTY: 711

www.oregon.gov/OHA/HSD

Date: February 8, 2024

To: Licensed Mental Health Residential Treatment providers

From: Donny Jardine, Medicaid Behavioral Health Policy manager
Medicaid Programs

Subject: Expansion of crisis respite services effective January 1, 2023

[Oregon Administrative Rule \(OAR\) 309-035-0105\(16\)](#) defines Crisis Respite Services as “providing services to individuals who are Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) residents for up to 30 days.” Effective January 1, 2023, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will reimburse for up to 30 days of crisis respite services provided to Medicaid-eligible individuals:

- In licensed Residential Treatment Homes (RTH) and RTF settings, including Secure Residential Treatment Facilities (SRTF); and
- Not already residing in a mental health residential setting.

An individual may be eligible for crisis respite services when they are experiencing a mental health crisis and need additional intervention or support to ensure their or others’ health, safety, and prevent escalation to a higher level of care. Additional criteria for crisis respite admissions can be found throughout [OAR Chapter 309, Division 035](#). OHA will update relevant OARs to reflect this change.

Why is this happening?

Crisis respite is a short-term crisis and stabilization service provided in a residential setting to stabilize the individual in crisis, prevent further deterioration, and provide immediate treatment and intervention in a location best suited to meet the needs of the individual and in the least restrictive environment available. Crisis respite is crucial to support individuals in mental health residential and crisis systems and divert them from emergency departments, jails, or higher levels of care.

What should you do?

Submit prior authorization requests for crisis respite services to Comagine Health. For previously submitted requests for crisis respite services rendered on or after January 1, 2023:

- Please resubmit denied requests for reconsideration if they meet the above criteria.
- Do not resubmit pending requests. OHA will review them according to the above criteria.

Once authorized, Comagine will update MMIS and prompt an approval letter. Once approval is received please submit claims for crisis respite services based on the code and rate listed in the [Behavioral Health Fee Schedule](#).

Questions?

- **About billing OHA:** Contact Provider Services at dmap.providerservices@oha.oregon.gov or 1-800-336-6016.
- **About Crisis Respite Policy:** Contact Medicaid Programs at medicaid.programs@oha.oregon.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.