

Provider Bulletin

Molina Healthcare of California

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July 29, 2026

- ☐ Imperial
- ☒ Riverside
- ☒ San Bernardino
- ☒ Los Angeles
- ☐ Orange
- ☒ Sacramento
- ☒ San Diego

Clarification of IHSS role in respite care

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers applicable to the Medi-Cal line of business.

What you need to know:

Molina recently received clarification from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) regarding the role of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) in Respite Care. DHCS clarified the following:

“Caregiver Respite may not duplicate or supplant services that are the responsibility of IHSS. As such, it cannot be authorized to cover IHSS-assigned hours or replace an IHSS provider who is expected to deliver care during those authorized hours. In these circumstances, Members and/or their care coordinators should work with their county IHSS office regarding backup or replacement caregivers.”

“Concurrent authorization of IHSS and Caregiver Respite may be permitted only when the services address distinct, non-overlapping needs and there is no duplication of State Plan benefits. Any Caregiver Respite authorization must be based on a separate, medically appropriate need that is not met through IHSS.”

Provider action

Molina will review service requests in alignment with DHCS guidance. Moving forward, members receiving IHSS services should inquire about respite services through their IHSS county office or agency.

What if you need assistance?

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your [Molina Provider Relations Representative](#).

