Guidance for 1915(c) Children’s Waiver
Home and Community Based Services Regarding
Respite Services

As outlined in the Guidance for Home and Community–Based Services (HCBS) Providers Serving Children/Youth Under the 1915(c) Children’s Waiver Related to COVID–19, if the waiver participant chooses not to have a face-to-face meeting or it is determined that a face-to-face meeting is not appropriate during the COVID-19 emergency, the Respite provider may deliver the service remotely following telehealth guidance. The activities must meet the definition of Respite per the Children’s HCBS Provider Manual.

Examples of allowable telehealth Respite activities: include online recreational or educational activities such as exercise classes; live performances; interactive games and activities; and tutorials and educational classes.

Providers should only bill for time spent actively delivering the service and time spent with the child/youth remotely or on-line.

Providers may bill for time spent assisting the child/youth/family, such as:

- Set-up or engagement by phone, talking with the child/youth/family.

- Setting-up the equipment and/or activity, demonstrating the equipment and/or activity, and/or actively engaging in the activity with the child/youth. Providers may not bill for any unsupervised time the child/youth spends engaged in the activity.
  - For example: a provider spends 30 minutes engaging with the child/youth to set-up a video game and actively playing the game with the child/youth. The provider then lets the child/youth play the game for 1 hour while the provider performs other activities. After an hour, the provider checks-in with the child for 15 minutes. The provider would be able to bill for the 45 minutes spent actively delivering the service.

Please utilize and reference all COVID-19 and Telehealth (telephonic) guidance available at: https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/covid19/index.htm

Please send questions to BH.Transition@health.ny.gov

March 27, 2020