



Return to your patient's family

Community Services Interest List (CSIL)

Office Address and Telephone No.

CSIL No.

(Physician Name and Address)

Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP)

Physician Recommendation for Length of Stay in a Nursing Facility

MDCP provides respite services and supports to eligible medically dependent children. Your patient, _____, whose date of birth is _____, has requested to access MDCP services through an expedited process due to his/her medical condition. This expedited process is called the Money Follows the Person (MFP) option. Individuals requesting services through the MFP option are required to reside in a nursing facility while eligibility for MDCP is established. In certain cases, individuals who are determined to be too medically fragile to complete an extended nursing facility stay can complete a limited nursing facility stay. For more information, see **Important Information for Applicants Applying for MDCP through the MFP option** on the back of the form.

Medically fragile is defined as a serious chronic physical condition that results in a prolonged dependency on medical care. The individual who is medically fragile requires daily skilled nursing intervention and is dependent upon medical devices/technology. A determination that an applicant does not meet the criteria of medically fragile does not restrict the child from accessing services. The child's name can remain on the interest list until there is funding available.

Typically, to be considered medically fragile for the purpose of being approved for a limited nursing facility stay, an individual must meet two or more of the following criteria:

- Ventilator dependent with a tracheostomy
- 24 hour/day oxygen dependence
- Total nutrition via enteral tube feeding
- Documented immune deficiency confirmed by lab findings (i.e., IgA or IgG deficiency) or on immunosuppressive drug therapy
- Seizures requiring medical intervention (e.g., medication administration, oxygen) during the seizures, every day for the past six months
- Renal dialysis
- Total parenteral nutrition (TPN)
- Congestive heart failure requiring hospitalization within the past six months
- Tracheostomy
- Hospice

Check the box for the conditions above that qualify the applicant as medically fragile and attach physician documentation dated within the last 12 months (such as a visit note or dictated hospital discharge summary) that substantiates the box checked and any other chronic conditions marked. If the child does not meet the criteria above, the information submitted will be reviewed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) state office physician to determine if the applicant is too medically fragile to reside in a nursing facility for an extended period of time, which could be a period of approximately 30 days.

Please check one of the boxes below:

- I attest that the patient listed above does not meet the medically fragile criteria provided in this form and can reside in a nursing facility setting for an extended period of time without impact to his/her health and safety.
- I attest that the patient listed above does meet the medically fragile criteria provided in this form or is too medically fragile and cannot reside in a nursing facility setting for an extended period of time without impact to his/her health and safety.

_____ Signature-MD/DO	_____ Date	Telephone No.
Name of MD/DO (Please print)		License No.

My signature below indicates I have reviewed this document and have determined it to be complete.

Signature-Utilization Review Nurse
Date

Important Information for Individuals Applying for MDCP through the Money Follows the Person Option

Texas uses a federal program called the Money Follows the Person (MFP) option to help individuals who reside in a nursing facility and receive Medicaid return to the community to receive long-term services and supports without having to wait on an interest list. For individuals applying for the Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) using the MFP option, this usually requires an extended stay in a nursing facility to establish MDCP eligibility before moving to the community. For individuals HHSC determines are too medically fragile to reside in a nursing facility for the time it typically takes to establish MDCP eligibility, HHSC has established an exception process called a limited stay exception.

For the limited stay exception, medically fragile means a serious chronic medical condition that results in prolonged dependency on medical care. The individual who is medically fragile must need daily skilled nursing care and requires medical devices in order to prolong life. As explained below, HHSC reviews information provided by the individual's physician to decide if the individual qualifies for a limited stay exception.

To apply for the limited stay exception, an individual must submit to HHSC Form 2406, Physician Recommendation for Length of Stay in a Nursing Facility. This form includes the criteria HHSC uses to determine an individual is too medically fragile to reside in a nursing facility for an extended period of time and qualifies for a limited stay exception. A physician treating the individual must complete the form. The individual must submit the form with clinical documentation provided by the physician. This documentation must support the criteria checked on the form and address the medical fragility by providing information about the diagnosis, medical condition, interventions and prognosis of the individual.

Usually, HHSC considers an individual to be too medically fragile for an extended nursing facility stay if the individual meets two or more of the criteria listed on the form. An HHSC Utilization Review nurse reviews the form and supporting documents and, if the individual does not meet at least two of the criteria, sends the form and documentation to an HHSC physician for review. The HHSC physician reviews the documents and uses medical judgment to determine if the individual is too medically fragile for an extended nursing facility stay and qualifies for a limited stay exception.

A decision that the individual is not too medically fragile does not prevent the individual from receiving MDCP services. The individual can choose to access MDCP using the MFP option by either remaining in a nursing facility for the time it takes to establish MDCP eligibility or remaining on the MDCP interest list until funding is available. The individual can re-apply by submitting a new Form 2406 with new information at any time.