

IHCP *bulletin*

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BDS establishes transition process from Supervised Group Living settings to CIH Waiver

The Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS) is establishing a standard process for individuals who wish to transition from a Supervised Group Living (SGL) setting into the community under the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Waiver. This requirement is only applicable to current and future SGL residents who are applying for the CIH Waiver and not to all CIH Waiver applicants in general. To facilitate this process, the following conditions are being established and are effective immediately:



- An individual must reside in an SGL setting for a minimum of 365 consecutive days before being eligible to apply for a CIH Waiver.
 - ⇒ The 365 days will start on the date of admission.
- The 365 consecutive days in an SGL setting (required before an individual is eligible to apply for the CIH Waiver) may include up to 60 days of therapeutic leave within a given calendar year, as described in *Indiana Administrative Code* [405 IAC 5-13-6](#). Such leave will not count against the 365 days required for CIH Waiver eligibility.
 - ⇒ Therapeutic leave days that are more than 15 consecutive days and not preplanned will require an Individualized Support Team (IST) meeting to determine next steps.

Example 1 – An individual chooses to go on vacation with their family and is gone for more than 15 days. Because it was preplanned and the intent is to return to the SGL setting, they do not need to be discharged. The days they are gone are billed as therapeutic leave days and count toward the allotted 60 days.

Example 2 – An individual goes to visit a relative and, while there, decides they are not sure if they want to return to the SGL setting. If the individual is out of the SGL setting for more than 15 days, an IST meeting should be held to determine next steps and discuss options, so as not to exhaust the remaining therapeutic leave days (45 days, in this example).
- In circumstances where an individual must be discharged, the 365-day count will resume upon readmission. The following scenarios would be allowable exceptions to the consecutive 365 days:
 - ⇒ An arrest that leads to time in jail
 - ⇒ A hospital admission lasting longer than 15 days (medical and psychiatric)
 - ⇒ Admission to a nursing facility

- In circumstances where an individual must be discharged, the 365-day count will resume upon readmission. The following scenarios would be allowable exceptions to the consecutive 365 days (Continued):

Example – An individual had to have surgery but needs rehabilitative services in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) before returning to their SGL setting. The individual is discharged from the SGL setting on the day of admission to the SNF, and the 365-day count is paused until readmission to the SGL setting. Upon readmission to the SGL setting, the count resumes.

- Individuals may choose to transfer SGL settings and/or providers during the 365-day period.
- The individual must be residing in the SGL setting at the time of application for the CIH Waiver.

After the required minimum of 365 days in an SGL setting has been met, it will be the responsibility of the individual resident or their legal representative to request a CIH Waiver application. The BDS service coordinator will schedule an IST meeting to discuss services and the transition process, and to ensure eligibility for CIH consideration. Prior to this meeting, the SGL provider must provide an accounting of the 365-day requirement. The current provider must obtain any previous accounting from all previous providers if needed to meet the requirement.

QUESTIONS?

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