



Mississippi Department of Mental Health
Provider Bulletin
Number PR0028

Subject: In-Home Nursing Respite Services

Issue Date: January 24, 2014

Effective Date: January 24, 2014

Scope

All DMH/H Certified Providers

Purpose

To provide clarification regarding the employment of family members to provide In-Home Nursing Respite Services to individuals participating in the ID/DD Waiver.

Subject

Recently, DMH has received waiver requests to allow licensed nurses to provide In-Home Nursing Respite Services to family members. As questions that relate to the scope of the practice of nursing are outside the authority of DMH, an opinion was sought from the MS Board of Nursing concerning the provision of In-Home Respite Nursing Services provided by an immediate family member.

DMH has been advised that the provision of nursing services by an immediate family member would fall under unprofessional conduct by a nurse by violating professional boundaries of the nurse patient relationship or financial exploitation of the patient or patient's immediate family member or significant other.

As a result, DMH will not approve any waiver request(s) for a family member to provide In-Home Nursing Respite Services. DMH also advises providers who may have carried out this practice in the past to consult with the MS Board of Nursing to avoid any potential conflicts.

End of Provider Bulletin