



PROVIDER ALERT

Change in Minimum Provider Age for Respite Services

Dec. 1, 2020

Alert Summary: As of Jan. 1, 2021, the minimum age for qualified providers of Respite services will be lowered from 21 to 18 years of age.

Dear Provider,

Effective Jan. 1, 2021, the minimum age requirement for qualified providers of Respite services will be lowered from 21 to 18 years of age. This change is in response to provider requests and in consideration of labor market conditions. A Respite provider must be a minimum of 18 years of age and no less than 36 months older than the member to which they are rendering Respite care.

The qualified providers must continue to meet the requirement of at least a high school graduate or have a GED, have a CPR certification, and have completed the required Optum Respite Training on Relias.

Respite providers should rely on the policies and procedures established by their agency to ensure member safety and well-being are maintained. Appropriate provision of Respite and assignment of a Respite provider remains in the scope of accountability of the employing agency and the licensed, supervising clinician.

The Provider Manual will be updated to reflect this change on Jan. 1, 2021. The Optum Respite Training on Relias is under review and will be updated shortly. Optum Idaho will send out an alert to the Network when the updated training is available.

Should you have any questions, please contact your Optum Provider Relations Advocate.

Thank you,
The Optum Idaho Team