

Referral partners

This FAQ is designed for hospitals, discharge planners, care teams, and other referral partners who may identify individuals who could benefit from medical respite care. It is intended to help referral partners understand medical respite as a safe, short-term recovery option for people experiencing homelessness.

1. What is medical respite care?

Medical respite care, sometimes called recuperative care, is acute and post-acute care for people experiencing homelessness who are not ill enough to remain in a hospital but still need a safe, supportive place to recover after discharge. Medical respite care helps people continue healing while receiving medical oversight, care coordination and connections to ongoing support.

2. Who qualifies for medical respite care?

Those experiencing homelessness or do not have stable housing and

- Are being discharged from a hospital or care setting
- Need additional time to recover
- Are too ill to recover safely without support but do not need to remain hospitalized

3. How is medical respite different from shelter or housing?

Medical respite care is not long-term housing or emergency shelter. It is a short-term recovery option that includes medical support, care coordination, and connections to community resources. Medical respite can also help connect people to longer-term support when available, but its primary purpose is recovery after hospitalization or acute care.

4. When should I consider a medical respite referral?

A referral may be appropriate when a patient is ready to leave the hospital but does not have a safe place to recover or manage follow-up care.

5. What services are typically provided?

- Acute and post-acute recovery support
- Medication support
- Care coordination
- Help planning for next steps after respite stay
- Connection to behavioral health, housing, and community services

6. How does the referral process work?

Referral processes vary by program. Referral partners should contact the local medical respite program or use the established referral pathway to share patient information and determine whether medical respite is an appropriate next step.

7. Who should I contact to learn more?

For questions about referrals, eligibility or program-specific next steps, contact your local medical respite program:

- Program contact: ADD YOUR PROGRAM INFO HERE
- Referral information: ADD YOUR INFO HERE
- You can also visit www.illinoismedicalrespite.org for a directory and contact information for operating medical respite programs across Illinois.

