

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Relief for Supervised Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) Agencies

OPWDD will authorize agencies that operate IRAs to bill a set number of units of Group Community Habilitation – Residential (Group CH-R) for individuals who live in the Supervised IRA and participated in Day Habilitation and/or Prevocational services delivered by another agency, prior to the COVID-19 state of emergency. The Group CH-R service authorization is effective retroactively to March 18, 2020.

- 1. Can the residential agency bill Group CH-R units for IRA residents who participated in a day service other than Day Habilitation or Prevocational services prior to the COVID-19 state of emergency – for example Supported Employment?**

No. The Group CH-R claiming by the residential agency only applies to IRA residents who participated in another agency's Day Habilitation or Prevocational services program prior to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

- 2. Is there a limit on the number of Group CH-R units that a residential agency may bill to Medicaid?**

Yes. The residential agency will receive a monthly allocation of Group CH-R units that they may bill to Medicaid. This is the maximum number of units that may be billed per month.

- 3. How will the residential agency know who is authorized to receive Group CH-R services?**

OPWDD will authorize the individuals for whom services may be billed and send an authorization letter to the residential agency.

- 4. Who decides how to allocate the monthly units to authorized individuals?**

The residential agency decides how to allocate monthly units.

- 5. If I receive the list of individuals who are authorized to receive Group CH-R and I serve someone who qualifies for Group CH-R but is not on the list, will my monthly allocation of Group CH-R units be recalculated?**

No. The unit calculation is final. If you feel someone should be added to the list of individuals authorized for Group CH-R, you may email your request to help.tabs@opwdd.ny.gov along with the person's Addendum to Life Plan/Staff Action Plan. OPWDD Central Operations will then add the person to your agency's Group CH-R Program Code in TABS. This will provide authorization for the additional person, however the agency's allocation of monthly units will not be adjusted.

- 6. What is the effective date of the Group CH-R service authorization and how long will it remain in place?**

The Group CH-R service authorization is effective retroactively to March 18, 2020 and will remain in effect until rescinded by OPWDD or until the individual can resume participation in Day Habilitation or Prevocational services delivered by the other agency.

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7. What is the schedule that the residential agency uses for the delivery and billing of Group CH-R for someone who participated part-time in a Day Habilitation program operated by the residential agency and part-time with a different agency?

The residential agency delivers and bills Group CH-R on days when the individual routinely participated in the other agency's Day Habilitation program.

For example, if a resident participated part-time in Day Habilitation with another agency and part-time with Day Habilitation operated by the residential agency:

- The residential agency may deliver and document Day Habilitation in the residence in accordance with the individual's pre-COVID-19 service delivery schedule for participating in Day Habilitation services delivered by the residential agency.
- The residential agency may deliver Group CH-R on days when the individual participated in the other agency's Day Habilitation.

8. Can a residential agency bill Medicaid for both day service retainer units and the authorized number of Group CH-R units for an individual on the same day?

No. Group CH-R units are billed by the individual's residential service provider on days when the individual participated in Day Habilitation or Prevocational services delivered by a different agency. In cases where the residential agency is both the residential service provider and the day service provider, the residential agency may deliver Day Habilitation or Prevocational services in the residence and according to the individual's pre-COVID-19 service delivery schedule.

9. Can agencies that operate Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) bill Group CH-R?

No. ICF policy for day services is forthcoming.

10. Can a residential agency bill Group CH-R on weekends?

No. Group CH-R billing applies to services delivered on weekdays only – in accordance with the rules for the provision of day services for individuals who live in certified residences.