



GIS bulletins (GIS 16-004, GIS 16-006, GIS 17-006) have addressed the proper coding of foster care respites. With the implementation of the placement build, and renewed emphasis on accurately recording movements of children in foster care, it becomes even more important to be sure respites are accurately reflected in Activities coding. This tip sheet, for staff responsible for entering Activities movement codes, reviews proper coding of respites and outlines under what circumstances the placement module must be used.



New York State Regulations DO NOT PERMIT respite for children placed in therapeutic foster care settings. Children placed in therapeutic foster care who are moved to another setting, even temporarily, must be coded as having been moved. See the section, Children in Therapeutic Foster Care, for coding guidelines specific to this population.

The NYS Definition of Foster Care Respite

New York State Social Services Regulation 18-NYCRR 435.3 states that, "A foster parent, **other than one providing therapeutic foster care**, is eligible for respite care and services when one of the following conditions exists:

- 1) a foster child has special needs due to a high level of disturbed behavior, emotional disturbance or physical or health need, including, but not limited to, AIDS, HIV infection or HIV-related illness, which has placed excessive or unusual stress upon the foster parent(s) such that the placement of the child in the foster family home cannot be maintained unless temporary relief from the child-caring responsibilities of the foster parent(s) is provided and it is in the child's best interest to remain in the foster home; or
- 2) a foster parent demonstrates a need for additional support in order to continue caring for a foster child and a determination is made that:
 - i) without the provision of respite care and services the placement has little likelihood of being sustained; and
 - ii) it is in the child's best interest to remain in that foster family home; or
- 3) a foster parent is suddenly hospitalized due to accident, injury or illness; or
- 4) it is necessary for the foster parent(s) to be absent from the foster home when there has been a death in the immediate family of the foster parent(s).

Respite care and services are not appropriate for foster families where the immediate removal of a foster child from the foster home is necessary in order to preserve the child's health, safety or well-being."

Regulation 18-NYCCR 435.5 further clarifies that foster family respites must be for at least 24 hours at a time and for up to 21 consecutive days. A period of seven days must elapse between respites and no more than seven weeks of respite is allowed in any calendar year.

Coding Respite Correctly

Respite must be coded as absences from placement , NOT as a change in placement location, by manual entry of the code M950 – Child Begins Absence in Activities, with the following modifiers:

- MOD B – Reason for Absence modifier of **ST - Respite Care**.
- MOD C - Number of Billable Days

Regular Service or Maintenance (POS 61) or Emergency Service and Maintenance (POS 62) payments will be made to the foster home up to the total number of billable days entered in the MOD C – Number of Billable Days field. *If nothing is entered in this field, payment to the foster home will stop as of the date of the absence.*

Note: Reimbursement for the period of absence will be federally non-participating (FNP).

Coding a Return from a Respite

How a return from a respite is coded - and whether or not the placement module must be used - depends on whether or not a child returns to the same placement from which they left.

- If the child returns to the **SAME** placement resource after the respite, the **M960 – Return from Absence**, should be manually entered in Activities in the same way it was before implementation of the placement build.

Date	Activity	Event	Modifier A	Modifier B	Modifier C
10/07/2019	Movement	M960 - CHILD ENDS ABSENCE	00416749		
10/01/2019	Movement	M950 - CHILD BEGINS ABSENCE	00416749	ST	07

- If the child moves to a **DIFFERENT** placement resource following the respite period, the **M960 is NOT** entered manually. These situations represent a change in placement resource (i.e., a transfer) and must be documented through the placement module.

If you attempt to enter a return to a different placement resource in Activities, you will receive a pop-up message alerting you that “A placement request is required to change the child’s return facility.”

A placement request is required to change the child's return facility.

Date	Activity	Event	Modifier B	Modifier C	Modifier D	Date Entered	Entered By	Agency
08/27/2019	Goal	G918 - REASSE				8/27/2019	08/28/2019	A01
06/20/2019	Goal	G918 - REASSE				6/20/2019	06/21/2019	A01
05/28/2019	Movement	M982 - INTER-AGENCY TRANSFER-NEW AGENCY	00365071	00416749	TD	06/05/2019	32636123	A01
04/15/2019	Movement	M981 - INTRA-AGENCY TRANSFER-NEW FACILITY	00365028	00365071	TD	06/05/2019	32636123	A01

Count = 37

Date of Activity: 10/07/2019 Type of Activity: Movement Event: M960 - CHILD ENDS ABSENCE

Facility Id: 00365071 Out Cnty/bor Plc Rea: Type: Not related/prior positive rel

To enter a return to a different resource, a placement request must be initiated, and either a multifacility or an exact search done, depending on whether you are searching to identify possible resources or whether one is already known. Once the placement module steps are complete, the placement verified and the information saved to the Activities window, the M960 code will be automatically entered by the system.

Children in Therapeutic Foster Care

Since NYS regulations prohibit “respite” for a child in therapeutic foster care, absences, even temporary, CANNOT be coded as an M950 with a MOD B – Reason for Absence modifier of **ST - Respite Care**.

When a child is moved from a therapeutic foster home to another location, the Placement Module must be used to identify the new location. When complete, this will result in the entry of an M980 (Intra-Agency Transfer - New Facility) or M981 (Inter-Agency Transfer - New Agency) code in Activities.

If the child returns to the previous therapeutic foster home, **another movement** would be recorded through the placement module and navigated into Activities using the appropriate Reason Code.

Reminder: If the change is a temporary one, and the district opts to pay both the therapeutic home the child was originally in and the temporary home, the district is not eligible to receive reimbursement for the original therapeutic home.

Resources

- CONNECTIONS Job Aids and Tip Sheets:
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/jobaided/jobaided.asp>
- CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation Staff:
<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/connect/contact.asp>
- CONNECTIONS Application Help Mailbox:
ocfs.sm.conn_app@ocfs.state.ny.gov
(NOTE: address contains an underline)

ITS Enterprise Service Desk
1-844-891-1786

A helpdesk ticket is now required before submitting an issue to the App-Help mailbox.