

Summary

Objective

Overnight care is a type of attendant care and can include either continual attendant care or sleepover care. Overnight care should only be provided after all other options have been considered, eg specialised beds, environmental controls, security alarms, Companion Care phones.


Owner [Name withheld]

Expert [Name withheld]

Procedure

1.0 Introduction

- a** Overnight care is a type of attendant care and can include either continual attendant care or sleepover care. Overnight care should only be provided after all other options have been considered, eg specialised beds, environmental controls, security alarms, Companion Care phones.
- b** Overnight care is considered an exceptional response and approval of this support will be associated with a Support Needs Assessment (SNA).

 Payment for overnight care

2.0 Continual attendant care

- a** Continual attendant care is when the client needs direct injury-related assistance throughout the night on a regular and consistent basis. Continual attendant care requires the carer to be fully awake for the entire shift.

3.0 Sleepover care

- a** Sleepover care is when a client needs someone in the house overnight as they have been assessed as unsafe to be left alone, due to the nature of their injury. The client may also require sporadic care throughout the night.

Sleepover care usually covers the hours after the client is settled in bed until immediately before they wake or are attended to in the morning. ACC generally does not pay for sleepover care provided by family members where no direct assistance is needed while the client is asleep. This includes family members employed by contracted agencies.

NOTE Sporadic Care definition

Sporadic Care is when a carer needs to briefly help a Client with their injury-related needs. Unlike continual attendant care, the carer does not need to remain awake overnight, but they need to get up and help the Client when necessary (fewer than 3 times per night or fewer than two hours in total).

4.0 Sporadic care

- a** Sporadic care is when a carer needs to briefly help a client with their injury-related needs. Unlike continual attendant care, the carer does not need to remain awake overnight, but they need to get up and help the client when necessary. Sporadic care includes situations where there is a temporary change in the client's condition, eg additional help needed for a urinary tract infection, chest infection or other period of ill-health.

A reassessment may be required if the client requires sporadic care on a frequent basis, eg seven days a week over a long-period of time. Alternative options should be explored to improve the client's sleep patterns, eg a continence assessment.

5.0 Sleepover care and what is reasonable for family to provide

- a** When an assessment identifies a need for sleepover care, ACC should consider whether it is reasonable for a household family member to provide the care as part of their Natural support. This decision needs to be based on the client's individual circumstances. If family members are providing a significant level of care, ACC can provide Relief care to help maintain both the client's and the family members' health and safety.

Generally, a household family member is expected to provide unfunded sleepover care as long as that care does not significantly impact on their usual activities, including sleeping.

NOTE Examples:

- It may be reasonable for a parent or guardian to provide some unfunded sleepover care for a child regardless of the injury, as ACC does not pay for age-appropriate supervision of a child under 14 years.
- It may be reasonable for a family member to provide some unfunded sleepover care at night, eg occasionally giving a drink or making the client more comfortable.

NOTE However, there may also be situations where it is unreasonable for family members to provide this service.

Examples:



- It is not reasonable to expect a young child (ie aged under 14 years), or a person with a significant medical condition, to provide sleepover care for an injured family member.
- It is not reasonable to expect household family members' employment or other commitments, such as sport, study and social activities, to be substantially disrupted by providing sleepover care. For example, it would not be reasonable to expect a client's partner who works nightshift to provide sleepover care.

NOTE When assessing a client's entitlement to sleepover care, it is important to consider the need for relief care or a mix of care to enable the household family member to have a break from providing care or to catch up on sleep during the day.

Examples:

- It is not reasonable to expect a household family member to provide sleepover care seven nights a week if there is significant sporadic care required. It may be appropriate to check whether the client needs this level of assistance and, if so, whether a mix of care is required, eg the family member could provide unfunded sleepover care for three to four nights a week and ACC could fund alternative care for the remaining nights
- If a client has an adult son or daughter who is capable of providing sleepover care but goes out on the weekend, it would be appropriate for ACC to fund two nights of sleepover care from a non-family carer to ensure the client's health and safety is not compromised

b Further information

-  Using Natural Supports Policy
 -  Non-contracted Relief Care Service Page
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