



# factsheet



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Factsheet 603 – 12 April 2010 (2 pages)

## Short-term Breaks in Residential or Nursing Homes Available for older people, people with disabilities and carers.

### What is Respite Care?

Respite care means giving a carer a short break from the person they care for. It also gives the cared-for person a short break from their carer! It also applies to people who may not have a carer, but who need a break from their home circumstances.

We aim to provide a flexible service to suit the needs of each person.

Respite care can be provided in either a residential or nursing care home setting.

### How do I arrange Respite Care?

If you think that you, or someone you care for, needs a break then you should contact **Care Direct** on **0845 1551 007**. They will discuss your needs with you to see if you are eligible for our support. We carefully consider each request for support and we must give priority to people with the greatest need, please read our factsheet FS1 **Assessment and Fair Access to Care**

Whether or not you meet our eligibility criteria we can help you arrange respite care for yourself.

If you are eligible for respite care this will become part of your Care Plan which can be reviewed if your circumstances change. You can choose to receive a Direct Payment to make your own arrangements – see our factsheet 8 “Direct Payments”

### Will we have to pay?

Everyone has to make a contribution towards the cost of respite care; how much the service user will have to pay will depend on their income and savings, and we will undertake a financial assessment to determine that amount. If they have capital and/or savings of **more than £23,250** (excluding the home they live in), they will pay the full charge and will not be able to get financial assistance. It may be better for them to make their own arrangements.

See Factsheets FS2a **Charges for Home Care, Day Centres and Community Meals** and FS2b **Charges for Residential and Nursing Care**.

## **How long can I take a break for?**

The exact length of breaks you are entitled to will be agreed as part of your Care Plan, based on your particular circumstances. (For example, a respite care break can be arranged for a few weeks while your carer is on holiday).

## **How often can I take a break?**

This will be determined by your assessment. Most carers are able to take a break a couple of times a year.

## **Book early**

Please note that respite care breaks in residential homes can be difficult to arrange at short notice and places fill up in advance at busy times of the year such as Christmas. If you want to plan some respite care, particularly away from home, please give us as much notice as possible.

We are constantly reviewing and monitoring the services that we provide in order to ensure that they are of high quality and led by the needs of the people who use them.

## **Other forms of Respite Care**

Increasingly people are facilitating respite care by having carers in their own homes to take care of the looked after person so they can go away on holiday etc. to get respite. Contact Care Direct for more information 0845 1551 007.

## **Further information**

Leaflet 6. **You are a Carer** - with details of Carer's link scheme  
Ref 283 **Overnight Breaks for Parents**  
On-line information at [www.devon.gov.uk/carers](http://www.devon.gov.uk/carers)

### **Factsheets**

FS1 **Assessment and Fair Access to Care**  
FS2a **Charges for Home Care, Day Centres and Community Meals**  
FS2b **Charges for Residential and Nursing Care**  
FS10b **Moving into a Care Home**  
FS 8 **Direct Payments**  
FS602 **Take a Break Scheme for Carers of Adults**

Further factsheets can be found online at [www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets)

**A large print version** of this factsheet is available on

[www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets)

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