



Fact Sheet:

Division of Developmental Disabilities MEDICALLY INTENSIVE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Medically Intensive Children's Program (MICP) provides skilled nursing services to children through age 17 who have complex medical needs that cannot be managed within the scope of intermittent home health services. Nursing services may be provided in the family home, foster homes, Medically Intensive Children's Group Homes, and Staffed Residential Homes.

A child is medically eligible for the program if the child requires at least four hours of continuous skilled nursing care per day. In-home nursing is approved for up to 16 hours per day and MIC group home and staffed residential home nursing services are for 24-hour care in addition to 1:1 nursing to accompany a child into the community.

The child must also be eligible for one of the following Medicaid programs:

- Categorically Needy Program (CNP)
- CNP-Children's Health Insurance Program, or
- Limited Casualty Program-Medically Needy Program

When a child is determined to be medically intensive and medically qualifies for the MICP, but the family does not qualify for Medicaid, the child may be placed on a Home and Community Based Services waiver in order to qualify for Medicaid and private duty nursing services.

This optional Title XIX program helps to keep families together and also substantially reduces the cost of in-patient hospital care where these children would be cared for without this program.

The number of children in the program at any one time averages about 219 children. During FY 2010, 338 children were served in the program at a cost of \$24.7 million for nursing services. This figure does not include the cost of placement (room and board) and other services such as personal care and respite.

In-home nursing is a shared responsibility with families. MICP nursing is approved for four to sixteen hours per day with the parent/guardian responsible for at least eight hours of care per day. Contracted group and staffed residential homes, and foster

homes provide 24-hour care for those children who have no home to return to or whose family is not ready for them to return home. In some cases, families prepare for their child’s return home by learning how to care for their child’s medical needs while the child is in group care or a staffed residential home. DDD social workers, case resource managers, and nurses coordinate other needed services to supplement nursing so that families who can care for their children at home have the supports to do so.

The current caseload for MICP is: 203 children. Of those:

- 137 live in their family home,
- 29 live in a Skilled, Licensed Residential Placement and
- 37 live in Specialized Foster Care.

The legal authority for the MIC program is Chapter 74.26 RCW and WAC 388-551-3000.