**DA 4700 Guidance for Primary Medical Care Provider Documentation
Need for Respite Care Support**

The Department of the Army, Office of Special Needs, and the Exceptional Family Member Program offers respite care for Families that have one or more members with severe chronic conditions or significant medical needs. Service Member must be enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program to receive this service. To be eligible for consideration, Family caregivers must provide continuous support or direct line-of-sight supervision for a minimum of 6-8 hours a day. The program funds a respite care provider to care the Exceptional Family Member, allowing the caregiver a “break” to address personal needs, or the needs of other Family members. Below is an explanation of the entry criteria that is a prerequisite for applying for respite care.

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| **Army Respite Care** |
| 1. **Little to no age appropriate self-help skills**
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| * The Exceptional Family Member (EFM), must require constant attention by a caregiver for a minimum of six-eight hours per day. This are may be necessary due to one severe condition or multiple less severe conditions that compounded result in significant burden to the care provider.
* If the EFM is under age 6, the child must demonstrate significant development delays with inability to perform age appropriate self-help skills
* If the EFM is over age 6, the individual must have significant limitation to include no toileting, dressing, bathing or feeding skills.

\*Self-help skills enable individuals to meet their own needs and involved activities and behaviors that eventually lead to independence. Basic skills focus on feeding, dressing, bathing and toileting. |
| 1. **Severe continuous seizure activity**
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| * Unstable seizures that require close monitoring for safety and support.
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| 1. **Ambulation with neurological impairment that requires assistance with activities and daily living**
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| * Requires presence of caregiver during mobility activities to ensure health and safety of EFM.
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| 1. **Tube feeding**
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| * Continuous or frequent intermittent tube feedings typically associated with other severe chronic conditions that requires direct involvement by the caregiver.
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| 1. **Tracheotomy with frequent suctioning**
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| * Management of tracheotomy must be provided primarily by the care provider in association with other severe chronic conditions of multiple medical problems.
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| 1. **Apnea monitoring during hours of sleep, if another Family member must remain awake during monitoring**
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| * The monitoring must be the extent that is significantly impacts the care provider’s ability to accomplish other personal or Family needs or household responsibility.
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| 1. **Inability to control behavior with safety issues requiring constant supervision**
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| * Includes one or more of the following chronic behaviors: aggressive; self-injure; impulsive; elopement (an individual who is aware that he/she is not permitted to leave, but does so with intent); or wandering (an individual who strays beyond the view or control of parent or staff without the intent of leaving).
* Children under age 6 must demonstrate the inability to perform age and developmentally appropriate safety skills.
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| 1. **Life threatening or chronic condition requiring frequent hospitalization or treatment encounters, which require extensive Family involvement in care giving**
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| * The involvement may include direct provision of care, participating with EFM in clinical appointment, and/or coordination and care management.
* The hospitalized person is the EFM.
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