



## Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association BC

### RESPIRE CARE BC:

To access [respite in long-term care in BC](#), caregivers should contact their local health unit or Home Health office to arrange services, as direct contact with facilities is not the correct procedure.

Short-stay services are available in long-term care homes or hospices, which provide temporary relief for caregivers and can be accessed through your case manager or a specialized palliative access line.

For publicly subsidized services, a daily rate applies, which was set at \$48.20 for 2025.

### How to access respite:

- **Contact your local health unit:**

For support, resources, and to request home and community care services, including respite nursing at home, contact your local health unit.

- **Contact your case manager:**

If you have a case manager, they can help you access the right respite services, including short-stay options in long-term care facilities or hospices.

- **For palliative care respite:**

Contact the specialized palliative access line in your area to arrange for respite care in a home-like setting like a hospice or long-term care home.

### Options for respite care:

- **Short stay in a facility:**

This provides a short-term stay in a residential care facility (assisted living/long-term care/group home/family care home), hospice, or other community care setting (rehabilitation).

- **In-home respite:**

This can include home support services like personal assistance or safety maintenance activities, or nursing support.

- **Adult day programs:**

These programs provide a social and activity-based day program in a facility setting for the person needing care.



## Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association BC

- **Overnight respite:**

Some health authorities and private agencies offer overnight stays for caregivers who need a longer break.

### Costs:

- **Publicly subsidized short-stay services:** The daily rate was set at \$48.20 for 2025.
- **Other options:** Private pay options are also available through various agencies.

### Hospital Act vs. Residential Care:

Individuals in a hospital bed under the Hospital Act are receiving acute care, while those in a long-term care home are receiving residential care services. The eligibility and process for respite care differ between these settings, as hospitals are not considered Community Care Residential Facilities.

**The Hospital Act itself does not directly provide respite services**, but it does govern licensed hospitals, and these hospitals can provide short-term respite care as part of their services, such as "convalescent care". Respite services are more broadly addressed through other legislation like the Continuing Care Act, the Home and Community Care Act, and specific funding agreements, which direct services for things like home support and adult day services.

Short-stay services are provided, usually for less than three months, for people who require care as follows:

#### Short Stay Services

**Convalescent care** is provided to clients with defined and stable care needs who require a supervised environment for reactivation or recuperation, usually prior to discharge home, and most commonly following an acute episode of care.

**Hospice care** is provided to clients who require support with comfort, dignity and quality of life in the final days or weeks of their lives.

**Respite care** provides a client's main caregiver a period of relief, or to provide a client with a period of supported care to increase their independence.

#### **What are the short-stay services eligibility criteria?**



## Independent Long-Term Care Councils Association BC

In addition to the general eligibility criteria for home and community care services, to be eligible for publicly subsidized long-term care, you must:

- have been assessed as requiring short stay services.
- have agreed to pay the applicable daily rate; and
- have agreed to vacate the long-term care home at the end of the agreed period of short-stay services.

Other Resources:

Adult Day Centers: <https://www.alz.org/help-support/caregiving/care-options/adult-day-centers>

Private Pay

([VYTA – coming to BC](#))

BC Government: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/accessing-health-care/home-community-care/care-options-and-cost/caregiver-respite-relief>

Family Caregivers of BC:

FAQ Page: <https://www.familycaregiversbc.ca/faq>

Interior Health: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/home-and-community-care/respite-care>

Fraser Health: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/Service-Directory/Services/home-and-community-care/Overnight-respite-services>

Vancouver Island: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/community-health-services/caregiver-support-and-respite/facility-respite-care>

Vancouver Coastal Health: <https://www.vch.ca/en/location-service/vancouver-overnight-respite-program-family-respite-centre>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/services/home-community-care>