

Yale-New Haven Hospital's Medical Respite Center Checklist of Eligibility Criteria

The patient must:

- Lack suitable housing.** This includes:
 - Currently staying at a shelter.
 - Residing on the streets, outside, in a car, or some other place not meant for shelter.
 - Doubling up with friend(s) or family, or temporarily in a motel, AND are unable to return or secure alternate arrangements.
- Have an acute or post-acute medical illness which requires short-term resolution and care, OR** need an environment in which to prepare for or recover from medical procedures such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, endoscopy.
- Be independent in Activities of Daily Living (ADLs).**
- Be able to transfer and ambulate independently or with mechanical assistance** such as wheelchair, crutches, or cane.
- Be continent of bowel and bladder.**
- Be tolerant of solid food and not require IV hydration** (IV treatment is acceptable).
- Be free from signs or symptoms of influenza or tuberculosis** (if unexplained cough, weight loss, or other symptoms of possible tuberculosis are present, the patient must have documentation of appropriate screening)
- Be alert and oriented and psychiatrically stable** enough to accept and receive care and not interrupt the care of others. The patient must not be a danger to his/herself or others.
- Be cognitively able and willing to comply with treatment requirements** of the Respite Program which, at a minimum, means accepting visiting nursing services, engaging with case management, and taking medications as prescribed.
- Be sick enough to need more than an emergency shelter bed for the night.**
- Not be sick enough to require hospital-level care** or other medical care (nursing home, psychiatric inpatient admission, rehabilitation hospital).
- Be able to comply with rules prohibiting substance abuse** (drugs or alcohol) while in the program. Patients in methadone programs are permitted. Patients who have received benzodiazepine tapers for alcohol detox must be free of signs of withdrawal for at least 48 hours after their last dose.
- Have an expected length of stay in the Respite Program of 30 days or less.** Medical issues to be addressed at the Respite Program should be time-limited and have an identified endpoint.

Examples of patients NOT suitable for the Respite Program are those who:

- Primarily have a psychiatric need.**
- Primarily need shelter/housing, and do not have a medical need.**
- Would be better served in a skilled nursing or hospice facility.**

Source: Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT; featured in [Achieving Care Continuity](#) from Advisory Board's Nursing Executive Center.