

Change to authorisation periods – Victorian Senior Practitioner’s office

Key questions

September 2022

OFFICIAL

As of 31 October 2022, the Victorian Senior Practitioner will return to authorisation timelines of not more than 6 months for Interim Behaviour Support Plans and 12 months for Comprehensive Behaviour Support Plans.

There may be exceptions to this if the Victorian Senior Practitioner feel the nature or the restrictions require a shorter time frame for review.

Please see the responses below to some questions you may have:

What has prompted this change?

The Victorian Senior Practitioner has safeguarding responsibilities and the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices happens through positive behaviour support. Reconnection of the relationship between the development of plans and the authorisation process achieves this. When implementing providers and behaviour support practitioners are working collaboratively, restrictive practices are reduced and quality of life improves for people with a disability.

What happens if the interim plan has been authorised for a date post the 31st October 2022?

All authorisation dates pre-31st October 2022 will remain valid, unless there is a change in circumstances for that participant.

If the change in circumstances necessitates the development of a new behaviour support plan the usual authorisation process will need to occur.

What happens if a comprehensive BSP is unable to be developed in 6 months?

The timeframes for the development of interim and comprehensive behaviour support plans are a legislated requirement, as outlined in the NDIS (Restrictive Practices & Behaviour Support) Rules 2018.

As the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission regulate behaviour support, please contact the VICBehavioursupport@ndiscommission.gov.au to seek guidance.

What happens if a practitioner changes within the same behaviour support provider?

The timeframes for the development of interim and comprehensive behaviour support plans are a legislated requirement, as outlined in the NDIS (Restrictive Practices & Behaviour Support) Rules 2018.

A change in behaviour support practitioner within the same **specialist behaviour support provider** does not constitute a change in behaviour support provider. In this circumstance, the period within which the behaviour

support plan must be developed is from the date the **specialist behaviour support provider** is engaged. It is not based on the date at which the allocated practitioner changed.

For further information or clarification about these points, please contact VICBehavioursupport@ndiscommission.gov.au to seek guidance.

What happens if a practitioner changes and they work for a new behaviour support provider?

The timeframes for the development of interim and comprehensive behaviour support plans are a legislated requirement, as outlined in the NDIS (Restrictive Practices & Behaviour Support) Rules 2018.

As per the NDIS rules, when a change in behaviour support provider occurs, behaviour support practitioners must develop:

- interim behaviour support plans containing regulated restrictive practices within one month of being engaged, and
- comprehensive behaviour support plans containing regulated restrictive practices within six months of being engaged.

If the change in circumstances necessitates the development of a new behaviour support plan the usual authorisation process will occur post 31st October 2022.

What happens if a new restrictive practice requires authorisation, but the implementing provider has an authorisation letter which spans for 12 month period?

If the use of a new restrictive practice is identified, it is considered as a change in circumstances and needs the development of a new behaviour support plan. The usual authorisation process will occur to submission post 31st October 2022.

What happens if additional secondary providers join the plan?

As above, the APO for the secondary provider will need to authorise the use of the restrictive practice and this is considered a change in circumstances needing development of new plan. The usual authorisation process will occur post 31st October 2022.

Should you have any further questions, please contact us at email victorianseniorpractitioner@dffh.vic.gov.au or phone 03) 9096 8427.

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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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