



Dear Georgia Providers:

In December 2016, Congress enacted the [21st Century Cures Act](#). Section 12006 of the Act requires States to implement Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for Medicaid-covered Personal Care Services (PCS) and Home Health Care Services (HHCS) by January 1, 2020 and January 1, 2023, respectively.

EVV is a technology that automates the gathering of service information by capturing time, attendance, and care plan information entered by a home care worker at the point of care. EVV gives providers, care coordinators, and DCH access to service delivery information in real time to ensure there are no gaps in care throughout the entire course of the service plan. The technology contributes to Georgia Medicaid's mission of providing access to affordable, quality health care services for Medicaid members.

With respect to personal care services or home health care services, EVV electronically verifies the:

- Type of service performed;
- Individual receiving the service;
- Individual providing the service;
- Date the service was provided;
- Location of service delivery; and
- Time the service begins and ends.

Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)

The Cures Act requires States to implement EVV to avoid an escalating reduction in their federal funding match. Under the Act and with CMS approval, EVV systems operated by the State or a contractor on behalf of the State qualifies for enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) matching funds (90% for implementation, 75% for ongoing costs). Failure to comply with the federal mandate could result in incremental reductions in FMAP matching of PCS and HHCS expenditures over the first five years of the requirement and funding for Georgia's Medicaid Program.

Good Faith Effort (GFE) Exemption Request

The Cures Act includes a provision that allows states to delay implementation of EVV for up to one year if they can demonstrate they have made a good faith effort to comply and have encountered



unavoidable delays. DCH submitted a GFE Request Form on behalf of the State of Georgia in accordance with the submission requirements set forth by CMS on November 8, 2019.

On Monday December 3, 2019, CMS granted an approval of Georgia's GFE request on the basis that Georgia has sufficiently demonstrated that it has made a good faith effort to comply with EVV requirements and has encountered unavoidable delays. CMS will not apply federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) reductions in calendar year 2020.

Deadline Extension

The GFE approval extends the final deadline for implementing EVV for Personal Care Services to January 1, 2021 and Home Health Services by January 1, 2023. CMS has advised that the Cures Act provision on good faith effort exemptions does not provide CMS with authority to delay the FMAP reductions for more than one year. Therefore, if the state is not fully compliant by January 1, 2021, FMAP reductions will be applied beginning in the first quarter of 2021 and every quarter thereafter until the state achieves compliance.

Georgia is committed to adhering to the new go-live date for the Georgia EVV program and will diligently work with Georgia's providers towards a successful implementation. DCH will ensure that Georgia's selected EVV vendor provides statewide training on how to use the new EVV system or work with providers to integrate alternative systems with Georgia's EVV system. Also, to ensure providers are successfully prepared for go-live, DCH has included both a Pilot and Soft Launch period prior to January 1, 2021 for providers to begin using EVV without penalty for errors or non-compliance.

If you have any questions or would like more information and updates regarding Georgia's EVV implementation, please feel free to email us at evv.medicaid@dch.ga.gov or visit the DCH EVV webpage at: <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/all-programs/georgia-electronic-visit-verification>.

Regards,

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**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**