



How the latest mandate in Home Health Care can improve efficiency for better patient care

For decades, home health care has been improving the way patients receive care. As technology evolves, providers have been able to integrate communication and record-keeping processes that improve the quality of patient care even further.

In 2016, the 21st Century Cures Act sped up that evolution by introducing federal mandates that require electronic data entry of records.

The act, intended to increase the accuracy of self-reporting while improving patient care, requires providers to implement electronic visit verification (EVV) solutions to collect crucial data points during each home visit.

As a result, today's home health care visits include a Tablet or device that puts an EVV solution at the provider's fingertips. This allows quick and accurate recording of vital data points, including:

- Date, location and type of service
- Name of individuals receiving and providing care
- Time visit begins and ends

But not all EVV solutions are created equal. While some might only check the boxes to ensure compliance, the right kind of solution can do much more if you know what benefits to look for. Let's take a look at three major benefits of a robust EVV solution...

1. Reduced operating expenses

While any EVV solution can provide required compliance, proper use of a good EVV solution will help reduce operating expenses. Because of the need to ensure that service has actually been performed where and when it was expected, EVV employs the use of GPS tracking. Some EVV systems go beyond basic GPS functionality to provide dispatching capabilities as well. These features allow providers to:

- Avoid overpaying for mileage reimbursements
- Eliminate time-consuming programming of ad hoc Geo-fences to ensure caregivers are at patient locations
- Automate mileage reports to eliminate costly manual reporting

As home health care continues to grow, providers are expanding their workforce. Because operating costs increase exponentially as the number of workers increases, EVV solutions that reduce these costs become even more important.

633,100 NEW HOME HEALTH CARE JOBS
are anticipated by 2024 – more jobs than projected for any other occupation.¹

2. Increased operational efficiency

It goes without saying that EVV solutions can eliminate the inefficiencies—and potential inaccuracies—of completing compliance documents. However, the most useful EVV systems go beyond compliance paperwork, offering providers the ability to complete additional forms and documentation on a mobile device. This kind of system can benefit both employees and managers by streamlining operations and helping establish additional business efficiencies.

Caregiver time-saving benefits:

- Easier patient charting that allows inclusion of photos, annotations and signatures
- Hands-free reporting using voice-to-text
- One-click report submission
- Elimination of reliance on Wi-Fi—forms are stored and sent automatically when Wi-Fi is available
- Reduced overall time spent on paperwork

Management time- and money-saving benefits:

- Faster reimbursement
- Easy integration with leading accounting software for easy payroll
- Instant alerts when reports are filed
- Decreased paper costs
- Decreased mileage costs

Without EVV, every hour of patient care requires
48 MINUTES OF PAPERWORK.²

3. Improved patient care

The most important aspect of EVV is the improved care it enables home health care organizations to provide. Workers can complete paperwork instantly after every visit, and management receives an alert for the receipt of every report. This streamlined process can eliminate potential lags in response time when important changes in health status are noted, so that care can be delivered in a timely way.

EVV instantly alerts you when a visit has been missed, so you can deliver all the hours the patient was allotted for care. And because workers aren't focused on processes and paperwork, they're better able to focus on patient care.

Additionally, EVV meets HIPAA standards and provides privacy and security for patient data. Entry into EVV apps is password restricted, data is encrypted during transfer, and data and forms are hosted on a secure server with intrusion detection and protection. Reliable EVV providers also offer a business associate agreement (BAA) in order to fulfill HIPAA requirements and protect patients from data breaches.

87% OF AMERICAN SENIORS prefer
*to receive medical care at home.*³

Finding the right EVV solution

EVV will deliver measurable benefits if you choose the right solution. Look for a solution that offers forms that streamline your workflow. Ask for a demo so you can see how easy implementation might be, and confirm you'll get the training and support you need. Turn to U.S. Cellular for additional insights that will help you make the right choice for your business.

U.S. Cellular® can help. Ask your local business solutions expert for a free demo, call 1-866-616-5587 or visit [uscellular.com/business](https://www.uscellular.com/business)

We offer EVV solutions for home health care, hospice and behavioral health providers of any size. All of our solutions are backed by the U.S. Cellular network, purposefully built where you do business, in both urban and rural areas.

References

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