

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Disabled & Elderly Health Programs Group

February 22, 2023

Vicenta R. Borja
Acting State Medicaid Director
1215 Capitol Hill Rd
Capitol Hill, Saipan 96950
Northern Mariana Islands

Dear Acting Director Borja:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) approval of the electronic visit verification (EVV) good faith effort exemption request for Home Health Care Services (HHCS). CMS has determined that your state's request is in accordance with [12006\(a\)\(4\)\(B\)](#) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act). Specifically, your state has made a good faith effort to comply with EVV requirements by beginning to inquire with its home health providers and selecting a Provider Choice EVV model.

In addition, your state has encountered unavoidable delays when implementing its EVV system, including staffing issues and lack of dedicated personnel to undertake EVV planning, design and implementation. Resources in the state have also been strained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Because your state has sufficiently demonstrated 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 2023. Please be 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. If you have any questions please email EVV@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Ryan Shannahan, Deputy Director
Division of Long-Term Services and Supports