

Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

January 19, 2021

Helen Sablan, Director
CNMI State Medicaid Agency
1215 Capitol Hill Rd
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Ms. Sablan:

I am writing to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reviewed your territory's Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Compliance Survey, submitted to determine whether the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands meets the requirements specified in section 1903(l) of the Social Security Act (the Act), as added by Section 12006(a) of the 21st Century Cures Act, for personal care services rendered under the Section 1905(a)(24) personal care benefit.

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands has indicated that it does not render personal care services requiring an in-home visit under the 1905(a)(24) authority. You have also indicated that medically necessary personal care needs for individuals under the age of 21 are provided through the mandatory home health benefit. Therefore, there are no services for which to require the utilization of an EVV system, and no service claims against which to apply statutorily-mandated reductions in the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for EVV non-compliance. Please be aware that the Cures Act requires EVV for home health services as of January 1, 2023, unless a good faith effort request has been submitted and approved by CMS, offering an additional twelve months to implement legislative requirements.

Please be aware that should the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands add personal care services provided through an in-home visit under any of the authorities specified in the Cures Act, the territory will need to comply with EVV requirements upon implementation of such authority, or be subject to the mandated FMAP reductions. I have included the territory's current EVV Compliance Survey submission with this correspondence. If you have any questions about this correspondence please feel free to contact the CMS EVV mailbox at evv@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Alissa Mooney DeBoy, Director