

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

December 5, 2019

Ms. Jami Snyder
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 East Jefferson, MD 4100
Phoenix, AZ 85034

Dear Ms. Snyder:

I am writing to inform you that CMS is granting approval of Arizona's electronic visit verification (EVV) good faith effort exemption request. CMS has determined that your state's request is in accordance with section 1903(1)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 12006(a) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act). Specifically, your state has made a good faith effort to comply with EVV requirements by issuing a Request for Information (RFI), selecting an EVV vendor, and initiating work plans. The state has also conducted several stakeholder engagement activities, including establishing an EVV webpage, hosting a series of public forums throughout the state, disseminating a provider RFI, and convening a multi-stakeholder steering committee that included members, families, providers, and managed care organizations.

In addition, your state has encountered unavoidable delays when implementing its EVV system, including the Request for Proposals approval process and the need to stagger EVV implementation with a simultaneous project, implement custom configuration requirements, and delay the business rules process in order to solicit adequate input from providers and health plans.

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 2020. 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. 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. If you have any questions please email EVV@cms.hhs.gov or contact your CMS Regional Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph F. Lollar", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Ralph F. Lollar, Director
Division of Long Term Services and Supports