



# Massachusetts Electronic Visit Verification Questions and Answers

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## GENERAL

### **1. What information, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), does electronic visit verification (EVV) need from you?**

The six required CMS data elements under Section 12006 of the federal CURES Act are below.

- Individual receiving service
- Individual providing the service
- Type of service being provided
- Location of the service
- Date of the service delivery
- Beginning and end time of service delivery

Even if a provider uses a different EVV system than the state's Sandata system, they must still comply with the Massachusetts EVV business rules and program policies.

### **2. Do we still need to have timeslips/paper timesheets? Is EVV replacing MyTimesheet?**

EVV replaces paper timesheets for capturing the six required CMS data elements for EVV visits. Any other policy/program requirements for capturing clinical or other information will still be in place.

### **3. Do we need to register to receive future communications and training, and are there other ways to stay informed? Is there a site where we can view EVV webinars and trainings?**

Yes, you can register with Sandata if you provide services that are in scope for EVV. Register for EVV through the [Provider Self-Registration Portal](#). You can find a list of in-scope services [here](#).

For information about webinars and training, go to our [EVV website](#). [Sandata On-Demand](#) also has many support and education tools, including videos, articles, and quick reference guides. For specific information about the Massachusetts EVV program, please refer to the [Sandata Massachusetts payer webpage](#).

### **4. Will agencies be charged a fee for using Sandata?**

The Commonwealth covers the cost of Sandata, but not the cost of any devices or an internet connection.

### **5. Do I need an email address to register with Sandata?**

Yes. When completing the Sandata EVV registration through the [Provider Self-Registration Portal](#), use the same email address you used for your [MyMassGov](#) account. Otherwise, you won't be able to log in to Sandata.

**6. Will Sandata be accessible to users who have visual disabilities, need hands-free technology, or have other disability-related needs?**

Yes. Sandata meets all state and federal accessibility requirements, including the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) recommendations.

**7. How many other states use Sandata for EVV?**

Sandata has 23 state Medicaid EVV contracts and works with 20,000 provider agencies in 47 states.

**8. How do I get my Provider ID and Service Location number?**

You can get your Provider ID and Service Location (PID/SL) number at one of these two locations.

- [MassHealth Provider Portal](#)
- [Provider Online Service Center virtual gateway](#)

Sandata's Massachusetts Ready, Set, Go EVV Implementation [Checklist](#) has more information on steps to take for the implementation.

**9. If I already have virtual gateway access for other services, can I use the site and login I'm already using?**

Sandata's Massachusetts Ready, Set, Go EVV Implementation [Checklist](#) has more information on steps to take for EVV access and implementation.

**10. Can we use Sandata for some programs and an Alt-EVV system for others? For example, could I use Sandata for group adult foster care and an Alt-EVV system for services provided through an Aging Services Access Point?**

No, you cannot use a single provider ID for multiple programs. You'll need two different EVV accounts. If you need that, follow the following steps.

- Register with one vendor.
- When you register, a Customer Support account will be created for you.
- Open a support ticket using this link: [Sandata Customer Support Ticket](#). In the ticket, ask our Customer Support team to create a second, Alt-EVV account for the second EVV vendor.
- Once the second account is established, the Alt-EVV vendor associated with the second account can register in the vendor portal and complete the credentialing process.

**Note:** the data from two separate accounts can't be displayed together; you will have to view the data from each account separately.

**11. Is EVV required for visits where Medicaid is the secondary payer (and Medicare might be the primary payer, for example)?**

Yes, providers must use EVV for services for dual eligible Medicare-Medicaid members who will be billed by Medicare.

**12. If I have staff members contracted through a different agency, does each one of them need a username and password?**

All employees who provide services need a login to check in and check out for visits.

**13. Will both adult foster care providers and live-in caregivers have to check in and out, or just check in, when using EVV? If a live-in caregiver is a family member, such as a parent caring for a child, are they required to use EVV?**

Under federal Medicaid guidance, EVV requirements do not apply when the beneficiary and the caregiver providing the service live together.

**14. What type of access, if any, will accountable care organizations or managed care organizations have?**

We understand that accountable care organizations and managed care organizations need access to EVV information. We are researching how best to provide it.

**15. Does the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act require agencies to communicate to patients about EVV and the use of the Global Positioning System to track their visits?**

No, it doesn't require communication with the patient about EVV.

**16. What if I am only contracted with an ASAP, managed care organization, or accountable care organization, not enrolled directly with MassHealth?**

You are still required to enroll with MassHealth and get your MassHealth provider identification number.

**17. What is considered a short visit?**

A short visit is any visit where the total time is 15 minutes or more below the scheduled amount of time.

## TIMELINE

**1. When will I be able to submit EVV data?**

Massachusetts began provider agency EVV registration in August 2024. As of the end of September 2024, providers can begin using Sandata as soon as they have registered. Additionally, Alt-EVV provider agencies (see the "[Alt-EVV](#)" section of this document) can begin sending EVV visit data to the EVV data aggregator.

**2. When will providers be required to start using Sandata EVV (or start sending visit data to the EVV data aggregator as Alt-EVV providers)?**

The deadline to [make your choice](#) through the Provider Self-Registration Portal whether to use Sandata, the state-sponsored EVV system, or an alternate EVV vendor was December 9, 2024. If you have not yet

completed this step, please do so today. All providers are expected to be using their chosen system by January 31, 2025.

### **3. What are the compliance thresholds and penalties?**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has not yet published compliance thresholds for EVV implementation. The current focus is on registration and onboarding in this initial stage. Future stages of compliance will be published, and any actions and penalties will be communicated to all providers.

## **ALT-EVV**

### **1. If our electronic health record/electronic management record (EHR/EMR) system has EVV already, do we still need to use Sandata?**

The EOHHS EVV Solution is an open model. That means providers can use their own EVV system and send their EVV-related data to the EVV data aggregator (the database that maintains consolidated EVV information), or they can use the state's EVV system. EOHHS refers to providers' own EVV systems as Alt-EVV systems. All visits, whether verified in the state's EVV system or a provider's, will be sent to the EVV data aggregator. If a provider chooses to use an Alt-EVV system, they will still be required to provide all six data elements of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) EVV requirements. Your vendor will need to check Sandata's [Alt-EVV specification document](#) for information on sending visit data to the EVV data aggregator.

### **2. Does my EMR system work with Sandata?**

Please ask your EMR vendor about integration capabilities with Sandata.

### **3. What devices can Alt-EVV providers use to collect EVV data?**

Alt-EVV systems may use a mobile device, a landline, or other devices (referred to as fixed visit verification, or FVV, devices in Sandata's documents and software) that can collect visit data, including the CMS required data elements.

### **4. Does our staff need to record information in two systems if our EMR does not work with Sandata?**

Sandata does not capture clinical information. It collects the six CMS-required EVV data elements (see Question 1 in the "General" section of this document) and applies the Massachusetts EVV business rules.

### **5. When will the Massachusetts Alt-EVV specifications be provided?**

The Massachusetts Alt-EVV specifications have been reviewed during townhalls hosted by Sandata. For information, check Sandata's Alternate EVV [Technical Specifications](#).

### **6. If my agency currently has an EMR system that records attendance verification, can we compile the data and submit it in bulk in Sandata?**

Yes, you can upload information to the Sandata EVV aggregator from another system. Please review information provided in the Sandata townhalls, [Sandata On-Demand](#), and training materials for more information about Sandata and using your own EVV system as an Alt-EVV provider.

## MA EVV REQUIRED SERVICES

### **1. Which service codes/CMS Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes require EVV?**

Providers of personal care services; home health services; and other, related services are required to use EVV. Our [EVV website](#) lists the service codes that require EVV.

### **2. Do telehealth services require EVV?**

Yes. Our [EVV website](#) lists the service codes that require EVV.

### **3. Are durable medical equipment suppliers required to use EVV?**

No, EVV is not required for medical supplies, equipment, or appliances.

### **4. Does the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly require EVV?**

According to CMS, EVV is not required for Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly services.

### **5. Are MassHealth independent nurses required to use EVV?**

No. Continuous skilled nursing is not part of EVV, so independent nurses and independent registered nurses don't have to use it.

## BILLING/CLAIMS

### **1. Does the Sandata solution affect the way providers submit claims?**

No. There is no change to the way provider agencies submit their claims.

### **2. The EVV system will match claims and encounters against EVV visit data. Will payments be affected if there is a mismatch between the claims or encounters and the EVV visit data?**

We will share more information about claim compliance at a later date.

### **3. If a claim has multiple visit lines for the same services on the same day, how will EOHHS match the claim to the EVV data, since visit times are not on claims?**

Sandata will add together the EVV visit units for any one day, and EOHHS will compare the sum to the number of units billed on the claims. EOHHS will also compare other CMS-required EVV elements.

**4. Will providers have specific compliance goals, like correcting a certain percentage of errors?**

Yes. EOHHS is working on a provider agency EVV compliance plan; it will be shared at a later date.

## **MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS RULES/FUNCTIONALITY**

**1. Do I have to record the tasks I perform while in a home providing care?**

Massachusetts does not require you to record tasks for EVV. Instead, you must record units by service code/HCPCS code. Services will be recorded in Sandata, but tasks won't. For example, Sandata will record home health aide/personal care aide/direct care aide services, but not specific activities of daily living (ADLs) or instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs) that are performed.

Alt-EVV systems must send visit data to the EVV data aggregator, reported by service code.

**2. Does Massachusetts require GPS for EVV?**

CMS requires the location of the service for EVV. The easiest way to track where services are provided is to use the GPS location services on a mobile device. If a worker cannot use GPS, they must select "home" or "community" as the service location.

**3. Is there a state-required Global Positioning System tolerance/compliance, or geofence (for example, does my device have to show that I'm within 300 feet of the service location), or can we set the tolerance as we see fit for the area?**

There is no state-required Global Positioning System (GPS) tolerance. The geofence in Sandata is set at 250 feet. You can still verify and record EVV visits outside that range or without a GPS connection. Provider agencies can get reports to show them when visits occur outside the geofence.

**4. Does the mobile app require member/consumer signatures?**

The EVV implementation is not changing the program requirements that require proof of service, only enabling the proof of service electronically. Sandata will prompt you to provide member/consumer signatures as proof of service. If you can't get a signature, or if no signature is required, Sandata has processes to handle that situation.

**5. Will there be any changes to visit lengths for medication management?**

No, EVV does not affect other program rules, including those for medication management.

**6. What will you use to identify EVV providers? Do we need to obtain National Provider Identifiers?**

Providers are required to enroll with MassHealth. Each provider's National Provider Identifier (NPI) is stored in MassHealth's Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) with a corresponding MassHealth provider ID and PID/SL. This PID/SL is 10 characters, made up of a 9-digit base number and an alpha service location letter (for instance, 123456789A). Your PID/SL is displayed on MassHealth reports as well as correspondence and remittance advice, and you'll use it to register. Your contracting requirements will not change because of using EVV; in other words, if a provider is a managed-care-only



provider, the contract is still with their managed care plan, and the provider still needs to enroll with MassHealth within 120 days.

**7. Will any Social Security numbers be required?**

No. Social Security numbers will not be collected or stored in Sandata.

## DEVICES

**1. Do I need a mobile device for Sandata? Does it work on both tablets and cell phones?**

Yes, Sandata requires a mobile device for capturing visit information electronically. Sandata's application, Sandata Mobile Connect (SMC), works on tablets and smartphones. Sandata is available without cost to Massachusetts Medicaid enrolled providers required to use EVV.

**2. Will EOHHS provide mobile devices, like phones or tablets, to providers or provider workers for EVV?**

No, EOHHS will not provide devices to providers or provider workers for EVV.

**3. How can Sandata help agencies prepare workers to use EVV on mobile devices?**

Sandata will provide any mobile device requirements. Please refer to [Sandata On-Demand](#) for more information on mobile device requirements.

**4. What if my mobile device can't connect to the internet to document the visit electronically?**

Sandata works in an offline mode when it can't connect. You can still check in and out for the visit using SMC. The visit information will be sent Sandata once your device can connect again.

## SANDATA FUNCTIONALITY KEY QUESTIONS

**1. How can I register with Sandata?**

You can get this information in the Sandata townhalls. Townhalls are recorded and provided to those who cannot attend. For specific information on the Massachusetts EVV program and to review information from the Sandata townhalls, please visit the [Sandata Massachusetts payer web page](#).

**2. How does SMC work offline? Can workers disconnect (go into airplane mode)?**

Sandata works in an offline mode when it can't connect. You can still check in and out for the visit using SMC. The visit information will be sent to Sandata once your device can connect again.

**3. In parts of rural western Massachusetts, there is no internet/Wi-Fi access. How will that be addressed in the Sandata MA EVV system?**

EOHHS is aware of this concern. Sandata works in an offline mode when it can't connect. You can still check in and out for the visit using SMC. The visit information will be sent to Sandata once your device can connect again.

**4. If a worker checks in at a home but forgets to check out, will Sandata let them check in at their next visit?**

SMC will require the worker to end the previous visit to start the new visit. Visit maintenance will then need to be conducted in Sandata to add the appropriate end time for the previous visit.

**5. Can workers manually edit their time after they check in or out in Sandata?**

No. Visit maintenance occurs in Sandata after the visit has occurred.

**6. If a worker performs a service that is allowed to be provided outside the member/consumer's home, do they need to check in or out in Sandata within the geofence?**

There is not a requirement for the visit to be captured within the geofence. You can review any GPS and geofence information through reports in Sandata.

**7. Can members/consumers use landlines to call in and out using Sandata?**

No. Members/consumers are not required to check in and out for EVV, and Sandata does not have that feature. Workers check in and check out, using Sandata Mobile Connect (SMC).

**8. Can you tell us more about Sandata's reporting?**

Please review information provided in the Sandata townhalls, [Sandata On-Demand](#), and training materials for more information about Sandata.

**9. Does Sandata provide data or reports so providers can review and reconcile data?**

Yes. Please review information provided in the Sandata townhalls, [Sandata On-Demand](#), and training materials for more information about Sandata.

**10. Does Sandata provide a way to upload data, such as worker information, to help providers get ready to use the system?**

Sandata provides bulk upload capabilities for worker data for initial setup.

**11. Where will the Sandata training and document library be published?**

[Sandata On-Demand](#) contains many support and education tools, including videos, articles, and quick reference guides. For specific information about the Massachusetts EVV program, please refer to the [Sandata Massachusetts payer webpage](#).

**12. Will Sandata be available in different languages?**

Yes. Massachusetts has required that Sandata be available in English, Chinese (Mandarin), Chinese, (Cantonese), French (Creole), Portuguese, and Central American Spanish.