



Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

September 24, 2024

Who We Are

Home Health Care

Skilled care given by health care professionals such as nurses, physical, occupational, and speech therapists

The care must be ordered by a physician or a non-physician provider

18,000 NM Medicare beneficiaries used home health benefit

72 Medicare certified home health agencies

Hospice

Addresses patient's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs

Helps the patient's family and caregivers

Emphasis is on caring, not curing

Care typically provided in the home

11,438 NM Medicare beneficiaries used hospice benefit

42 Medicare certified hospice agencies

Personal Care Services

Medicaid community benefit for individuals with a nursing facility level of care determine

Assistance with some or all of activities of daily living

Purpose is to avoid institutionalization and/or to increase individual's ability to remain independent

Over 32,000 Medicaid personal care service members

Home is Patient Preferred & Safe Care Setting



AARP Public Policy Institute report that 90% of people 65 and older would prefer to receive care in their homes for as long as possible.



94% of Medicare beneficiaries would prefer to receive post-hospital short-term health care at home.



Patients treated in a home-based setting following a visit to the emergency room were significantly less likely to be admitted or readmitted to the hospital.

EVV & Home Health Care

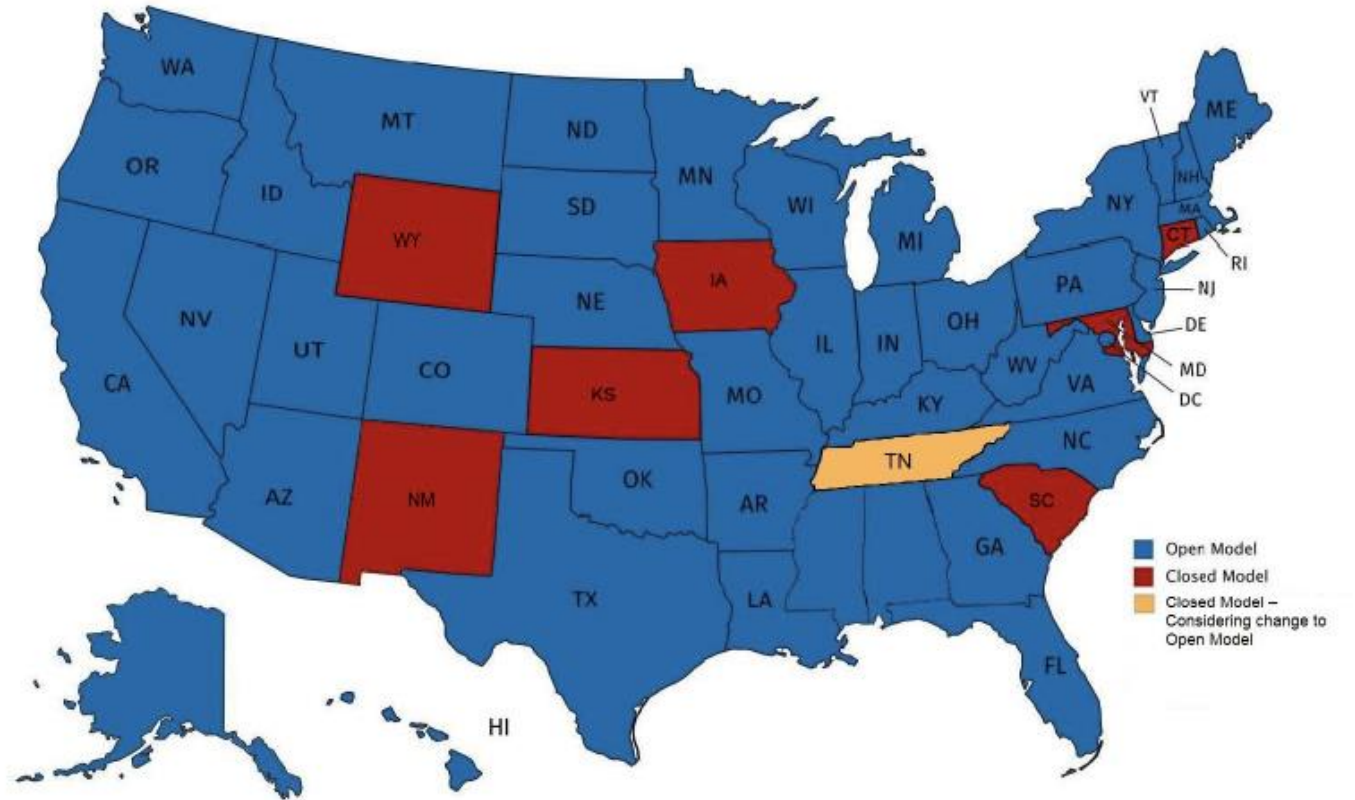
- December 2016 Congress passed the 21st Century Cures Act
- The Cures Act was supposed to promote the interoperability of health information technology and aims to reduce regulatory burdens on providers.
- CMS mandated Electronic Visit Verification to be implemented by home health agencies January of 2024.
- New Mexico Medicaid took the path of least resistance and our home health agencies are paying the price.



Electronic Visit Verification

Currently only 5 of the 50 states or 10% are continuing to use a closed model solution.

- Tennessee has recently announced it will be moving to an Open Model solution.
- Alabama initially deployed a closed model solution but moved to an Open Model solution after about a year.



20 Year History of Personal Care Services Reimbursement Rates

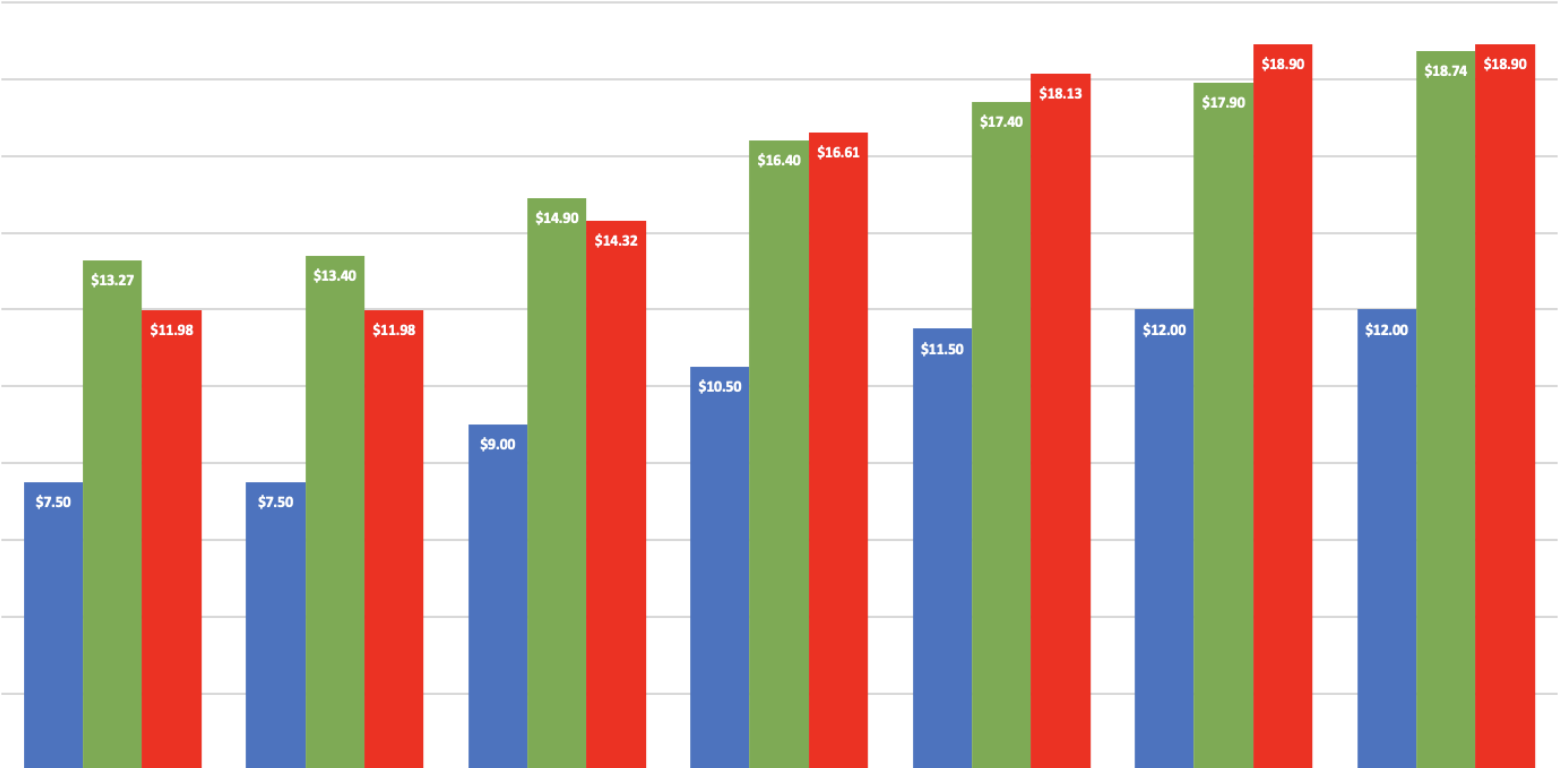
YEAR	REIMBURSEMENT (PCO Rates)	MINIMUM WAGE REQUIREMENTS			
		Santa Fe	Abq.	Las Cruces	N.M.
1999	\$18.00				
2002	\$16.00				
2003	\$15.50				
2004	\$13.50	\$8.50	\$5.15	\$5.15	\$5.15
2007	\$13.50	\$8.50	\$6.75	\$5.85	\$5.85
2008	\$13.16	\$9.50	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
2009	\$12.88	\$10.29	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
2012	\$12.88	\$10.29	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
2013	\$12.88	\$10.51	\$8.50	\$7.50	\$7.50
2014	\$12.88	\$10.66	\$8.60	\$7.50	\$7.50
2015	\$13.40	\$10.84	\$8.75	\$8.40	\$7.50
2016	\$13.27	\$10.91	\$8.75	\$8.40	\$7.50
2017	\$13.27	\$10.91	\$8.80	\$9.20	\$7.50
2018	\$13.27	\$11.09	\$8.95	\$9.20	\$7.50
2019	\$13.40	\$11.40	\$9.20	\$10.10	\$7.50

PCS Reimbursement Rate 2020-2024

	Santa Fe	Abq.	Las Cruces	N.M.
2020 Minimum Wage	\$12.10/hr	\$9.35/hr	\$10.25/hr	\$9.00/hr
2020 Reimbursement Rate	\$14.10	\$13.55	\$13.55	\$14.90
2021 Minimum Wage	\$12.32/hr	\$10.50/hr	\$10.50/hr	\$10.50/hr
2021 Reimbursement	\$14.32	\$14.70	\$13.80	\$16.40
2022 Minimum Wage	\$12.32/hr	11.50/hr	\$11.50/hr	\$11.50/hr
2022 Reimbursement	\$14.32	\$15.70	\$14.80	\$17.40
2023 Minimum Wage	\$14.03/hr	\$12.00/hr	\$12.00/hr	\$12.00/hr
2023 Reimbursement	\$16.03	\$16.20	\$15.20	\$17.90
2024 Minimum Wage	\$14.03/hr	\$12.00/hr	\$12.00/hr	\$12.00/hr
2024 Reimbursement	\$16.78	\$16.96	\$15.91	\$18.74

New Mexico Response to Rising Provider Costs

PCS Reimbursement Rate
Shrinking Margins



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
■ Min Wage	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$10.50	\$11.50	\$12.00	\$12.00
■ Reimbursement Rate	\$13.27	\$13.40	\$14.90	\$16.40	\$17.40	\$17.90	\$18.74
■ Provider Costs	\$11.98	\$11.98	\$14.32	\$16.61	\$18.13	\$18.90	\$18.90

New Mexico State Comparison

State	Personal Care 15 min.	Personal Care 1 hour	Minimum Wage
New Mexico	\$4.69	\$18.74	\$12.00
Arizona	\$8.70	\$34.80	\$14.35
Colorado- Denver (non-relative)	\$7.73	\$30.92	\$17.29
Colorado- Denver (relative)	\$6.83	\$27.32	\$17.29
Colorado- Non Denver (non relative)	\$7.09	\$28.36	\$14.42
Colorado- Non Denver (relative)	\$6.17	\$24.68	\$14.42
Oklahoma	\$5.26	\$21.04	\$7.25
Utah	\$6.19	\$24.76	\$7.25

Recommendations

1

Pressure NMHCA to move toward an open electronic visit verification (EVV) model

2

Increase personal care service reimbursement rates to support recruitment and retention of qualified workforce

3

Exempt personal care service and home and community based service providers from future state tax assessments (such as PFML, etc)

Thank You



Meggin Lorino, MSW

She/her

New Mexico Association for Home & Hospice Care

meggin@nmahc.org