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Spotlight Story: Home Health Aides



Home health care agencies provide skilled nursing care as well as other services such as physical and occupational therapy, speech-language therapy, and medical social services. The demand for home health care has grown as medical science and technology have improved and treatments that could previously only be completed in a hospital can now be administered at home.

There are over 300 home health care agencies throughout Massachusetts tasked with helping patients be as self-sufficient as possible. Maintaining swift and accurate communication with physicians is vital to help the caregiver do their job correctly.

Many home health care agencies still rely on fax machines, phone calls, and hand delivering critical medical documents between the hospital or health center and the patient's provider and the caregiver. These methods can be prone to transmission errors or significant delays in patients receiving necessary treatment.

Developing a secure Direct Messaging connection between hospitals and home health agencies can mitigate many of these concerns. Setting up this connection can be achieved by using the organizations' Direct Messaging solution within their EHR system or by utilizing Mass HIway webmail. Implementing an electronic workflow between the hospital and the home health agency allows the agency and its caregivers to receive accurate documents more quickly than faxing or phone calls. Caregivers are able to easily receive the relevant home health care documents, allowing them to act swiftly and according to the provider's instructions.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Event Notification Service (ENS) Vendor List Now Available

The Mass HIway created the Statewide Event Notification Services (ENS) Framework to facilitate the provision of ENS across the Commonwealth. The Statewide ENS Framework seeks to promote Admission, Discharge, and Transfer (ADTs) data sharing; increase access to ENS for providers of all sizes; streamline the provider experience by allowing for single submission and single reception of data; and improve the timeliness of data exchange.

In accordance with 101 CMR 20.11, EOHHS has contracted with the following vendors to participate in the Statewide ENS Framework as Certified ENS Vendors. These vendors will be responsible for collecting ADTs and providing notifications to subscribers:

- [Collective Medical Technologies](#)
- [PatientPing](#)

EOHHS issued an Administrative Bulletin, [AB 20-83](#), effective November 1, 2020. AB 20-83 extends the date by which all Acute Care Hospitals are required to submit Admission, Discharge, and Transfer data to a Certified Event Notification Service Vendor and the date upon which penalties for noncompliance with this submission requirement commence.

The new date for required ADT submission is April 1, 2021, and the new date for Acute Care Hospitals becoming subject to penalties for ADT submission non-compliance is October 1, 2021.

Admission, Discharge, and Transfer submission deadline for Acute Care Hospitals

Per the Hlway's Statewide Event Notification Services (ENS) Framework, as of April 1, all Acute Care Hospitals must submit Admission, Discharge, and Transfer (ADT) data to a Certified ENS Vendor. The Hlway is not asking Acute Care Hospitals to submit documentation to affirm that they are submitting ADTs by this deadline. To streamline the reporting process, Acute Care Hospitals will be asked to provide details regarding ADT submission on their Hlway Connection Requirement attestation forms later this year.

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