



Adult Autism Waiver Respite Service Changes

ODP Announcement 25-058

AUDIENCE:

Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) providers that render Respite Services in the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW), Support Coordinators, and Support Coordinator Supervisors.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this announcement is to inform AAW Respite providers of:

- Service Unit changes for Out-of-Home Respite (licensed and unlicensed)
- Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) requirements for Unlicensed Out-of-Home Respite effective 09/01/2025; and
- How to comply with these changes.

DISCUSSION:

Service Unit Changes for Out-of-Home Respite (licensed and unlicensed):

To align the AAW with the other ODP waivers, the day unit for Out-of-Home Respite¹ services will now apply to respite services that total 16 hours and one minute or more per day, instead of the previous requirement of 10 hours or more per day.

For Out-of-Home Respite services that are rendered for less than 16 hours and one minute per day, providers should bill the 15-minute unit for the appropriate amount of time.

¹ In-home Respite continues to be billed at 15-minute units.

Example:

1. Out of Home Respite service starts at 8:00am and ends at 5:00pm which equals 9 hours. The provider should bill using 15-minute units for 36 units of service.
2. Out-of-Home Respite service starts at 6:00am and ends at 10:01pm which equals 16 hours and one minute. The provider should bill using the day unit, for 1 unit of service.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) changes:

All Unlicensed Respite² services are required to use Electronic Visit Verification. Previously, only In-Home Respite (W7213) was available in EVV. Unlicensed Out-of-Home Respite, both W9495 (Day) and W9596 (15 minute) are now also required to have an electronic visit verification for PROMISe to pay the claim.

How to comply:

Any AAW provider rendering Unlicensed Out-of-Home Respite (W9495 or W9596), or In-Home Respite (W7213) must be enrolled to submit their EVV through the Sandata Aggregator for PROMISe to retrieve the visit information to process the claim.

- If your agency is already enrolled with Sandata, the two unlicensed out-of-home respite procedure codes (W9495 or W9596) are now available and required to be used.
- If your agency is not already enrolled with Sandata, you must enroll prior to rendering any Unlicensed Respite Services.

² EVV continues not to be required for licensed respite services.

If your agency utilizes an alternative EVV system, your agency is required to add the two unlicensed out-of-home respite service codes (W9495 or W9596) to your data collected to be sent to Sandata for all future visits.

Agencies are required to comply with EVV reporting by 09/01/2025.

Available resources are on the [DHS EVV website](#).

There is also a [FAQ's page](#) which may answer a majority of your questions as well.

If you have questions pertaining to billing issues, please contact the AAW Claims mailbox at ra-odpclaimsres@pa.gov .

If you need assistance with your connecting your agency's EVV to the Sandata EVV, please contact 855-705-2407 or PAAltEVV@sandata.com.