



Understanding the Key Differences Between Home Care & Community Care

Community care can be a significant recurring revenue stream for your home care agency. While the same level of care is provided, there are a few key differences to consider as you add community care to your agency.



Visits

Both home care and community care visits provide essential non-medical services, such as assistance with bathing, dressing, toileting, medication reminders, and household tasks. The key difference lies in the location and duration of these visits. Home care involves a single caregiver attending to one client in their home, with visits ranging from 1 to 24 hours. Meanwhile, community care occurs in a central location where multiple caregivers assist numerous clients in separate units, with visits lasting between 7 to 60 minutes.



Payers

Home care visits are typically funded by Medicaid, long-term care insurance, Veteran Affairs, and Private Duty. For community care, however, only Private Duty funds the visits.



Electronic Visit Verification

Medicaid mandates using Electronic Visit Verifications (EVV) for home care. Since Private Duty pays for community care visits, there is no need for EVV in this setting.



Scheduling

Home care scheduling involves planning caregivers for individual visits, while community care schedules caregivers for shifts at independent living communities. The number of clients a caregiver sees during a shift can vary based on daily needs, and caregivers are compensated for their shifts rather than per client visit.



Collaboration

Community care fosters a collaborative environment. If a caregiver is unable to move to their next client because one requires additional assistance, another caregiver can step in to help. This teamwork ensures that all clients receive the necessary care promptly.



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