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# Home Health **Best P**

## Implementing Home Care Software

You've selected new [home health software](#) and/or [hospice software](#). Now what? The next step in the area where there are many agencies that excel, and others that feel completely overwhelmed. You have a home care software solution for your business. Now that you've got it, what do you do with it? Some are "I'm not trained and I'll be on my way." However, that's not all that is involved.

Here are some suggestions on ensuring that your software implementation goes smoothly and with your agency and staff are successful product users.

**Engage your team early in the deployment process.** Share with them all of the wonderful ways that it will be change, and it will take effort, but as an organization you're committed to making it successful. Encourage them to embrace and evolve with the changes. The end results will help them, the agency, and the patient.

**What "has been" doesn't have to be what "IS."** (Look at your processes... now is a great time to make them better!) Align your processes and people to exploit the best aspects of your new software. Just be committed to the time.

**Going from paper to electronic is a big change.** Try to keep in mind that it's not always appropriate to replicate old processes and procedures as you move into the electronic world.

**Ask your vendor for their recommendations and suggestions.** They've helped hundreds of agencies. What things have they seen work? What things have they seen that didn't work out so well? This will help you make the most of your software.

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**Implementing a new system takes effort.** In many cases you've put a significant investment in software. Rushing or short-changing the implementation process can take your beautiful new system that you built with less than optimal results. A solidly configured system that is used well by your users will increase the productivity of your organization.

**Support your implementation team.** Generally, agencies don't have people on-staff that are able to manage the implementation. Ensure that the individuals who are working on the project and leading the implementation are empowered to make decisions. Take time to make sure they feel appreciated.

**Expect a couple of bumps.** What major change doesn't involve at least a bump or two? This doesn't mean you expect a couple of bumps. If they don't happen, that's awesome! If you see a "bump" in the road on your implementation plan. Can you take a "detour?" Should you "slow down" so you don't hit it at 75mph? Making informed decisions to minimize the overall effects of the bump.

**Chart your progress.** Celebrate the milestones as an agency. It's exciting to be implementing software. At the conclusion of your implementation you will look back and recognize some lessons learned, increased productivity, and better ability to focus on patient care, not on paperwork.

HEALTHCAREfirst sets a new standard for home care software implementation. Following our exclusive [Home Health Care](#) or [Hospice](#) agency can be up and running on our software in as little as 30 days. For more information, contact us today.

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