

Arkansas Medicaid Reimbursement for Physical and Occupational Therapy in Clinic-Based Settings

Zoom Public Hearing (03/25/2026 @ 9:30 a.m.)

Mac Golden: Good morning, everyone, I am Mac Golden with the Office of Policy and Rules. I welcome you to a public hearing regarding Arkansas Medicaid Reimbursement for Physical and Occupational Therapy in Clinic-Based Settings. I will be announcing the notice of rulemaking and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a comment on the record, please use the raise hand feature and you will be recognized to give your comment. DHS responses to public comments will appear on the DHS Proposed Rule website after the comment period ends. I will now read the notice.

Notice of rulemaking. The Department of Human Services announces for a public comment period of thirty calendar days a notice of rulemaking for the following proposed rule under one or more of the following chapters, subchapters, or sections of the Arkansas Code: §§20-76-201, 20-77-107, and 25-10-129. The projected effective date of the rule is July 1, 2026, if approved. There is no fiscal impact.

The Division of Medical Services issues a rule to implement Act 103 of 2025. This rule allows adult Medicaid Beneficiaries, twenty-one years of age and older, to receive rehabilitative occupational and physical therapy in clinic settings. Effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2026, adult rehabilitative occupational and physical therapy services are limited to twelve visits. There is a maximum of two units of therapy evaluations per discipline per State Fiscal Year (July 1 through June 30). Extensions of the benefit limit will be provided if medically necessary. Implementation requires a revision to the Arkansas Medicaid State Plan and issuance of a new provider manual, Rehabilitative Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy Services, which explains coverage and reimbursement rules. Corresponding revisions are issued for the Nurse Practitioner and Physician provider manuals.

The proposed rule is available for review at the Department of Human Services Office of Policy and Rules, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. You may also access and download the proposed rule at ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules.

Public comments can be submitted in writing at the above address or at the following email address: ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov. All public comments must be received by DHS no later than April 12, 2026. Please note that public comments submitted in response to this notice are considered public documents. A public comment, including the commenter's name

and any personal information contained within the public comment, will be made publicly available and may be seen by various people.

A public hearing will be held online by remote access. Public comments may be submitted at the hearing.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact the Office of Policy and Rules at 501-320-6428. The Arkansas Department of Human Services is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act and is operated, managed and delivers services without regard to religion, disability, political affiliation, veteran status, age, race, color or national origin. Signed by Elizabeth Pittman, Director of the Division of Medical Services.

Please let the record reflect we have eight attendees for today's public hearing. If any attendee would like to make a public comment at this time, please use the raise hand feature and you will be recognized to give your comment. I will pause to give you time to do that.

Barry, it looks like Holly Hertzberg would like to make a public comment. Holly, you can unmute yourself and you are recognized to give your comment.

Holly Hertzberg: Thank you so much, can you guys hear me okay?

Mac Golden: Yes

Holly Hertzberg: Okay, thank you. Um, my name is Holly Hertzberg and I'm the new president of the Arkansas Occupational Therapy Association. And on behalf of the Arkansas Occupational Therapy Association, I'd like to express support for the proposed rules regarding the Arkansas Medicaid reimbursement for Physical and Occupational Therapy clinic-based settings. The Arkansas Occupational Therapy Association is extremely grateful for how accessible and receptive Medical Services Direction Pittman and DHS staff have been to our organization during past discussions concerning this issue.

Thank you again to all those who put in tremendous amount of work on these proposed rules. Thank you all so much.

Mac Golden: Thank you so much for your comment.

Barry, it looks like someone just by the name of Bo would like to give a comment. Can you please give your full name and the organization that you're with and then you're recognized to give your comment.

Bo: This is Bo Renshaw, and I'm representing the Rehabilitation Network of Arkansas, representing about 3,000 therapists across the state and also the Arkansas Physical

Therapy Association, we would like to echo the comments just made that we're appreciative of the support of the working through the manual edits and the support that we've been able to get there for comment, and we're fully supportive of the current changes.

Mac Golden: Thank you for your comment as well. Is there anyone else today who would like to give a public comment? Please use the raise hand feature.

It does not appear that anyone else wishes to give a public comment today. We thank you for the comments that were given, and we will now go off the record.