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## UPDATED MEMORANDUM (DMS-51)

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To: Medicaid Providers

From: Division of Medical Services (DMS)

Date: December 31, 2020

Re: Ambulatory Surgical Centers allowed to temporarily enroll as hospitals

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In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Arkansas and the corresponding surge in hospitalizations that has resulted in a shortage of acute care hospital beds around the State, the Division of Medical Services (DMS) is allowing Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) to temporarily enroll as hospitals under certain circumstances to provide acute hospital services to patients as needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This change will be effective December 31, 2020.

ASCs that wish to enroll as temporary hospitals must submit a waiver request to CMS. Once that waiver is approved, the ASC must seek a temporary hospital license from the Arkansas Department of Health. To bill Medicaid as hospital, the ASC must provide that temporary hospital license to Arkansas Medicaid Provider Enrollment. The ASC will receive a temporary Medicaid Provider Number as a hospital and will be able to bill for hospital services. Once the temporary hospital provider number is issued and active, the ASC provider number will be temporarily suspended. All services provided will need to be billed under the hospital provider number.

For guidance on billing services, please contact the DMS Utilization Review Unit at (501) 682-8340.

**To ensure quality and consistency of care to Medicaid beneficiaries, DMS will coordinate with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) to conduct retrospective reviews and audits of all services provided during this time. Please keep all records of services as required by Medicaid billing rules.**