

## **Urgent Care Clinics**

### **Zoom Public Hearing (03/26/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)**

**Mac Golden:** Good morning, everyone, and welcome to a public hearing on Urgent Care Clinics. I will be reading the notice of rulemaking, and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a public comment, please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom and you will be recognized to give a comment on the record. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the public comment period concludes. I will now read the notice of rulemaking.

Notice of rulemaking. The Department of Human Services announces for a public comment period of thirty (30) 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: §§ 25-10-129, 20-76-201, and 20-77-107. The proposed effective date of the rule is June 1, 2025.

The Director of the Division of Medical Services (DMS) amends the Arkansas Medicaid Provider Manual section 171.100 to include Urgent Care Clinics as an allowed provider type. Beneficiaries who do not have a primary care physician will be allowed a total of four Urgent Care, hospital affiliated Walk-in, or Emergent Clinic visits, or a combination thereof, before a PCP referral is required. DMS updates section 172.100 to clarify that a beneficiary with an assigned PCP may access two Urgent Care Clinic visits per state fiscal year without a PCP referral, but that once two visits occur then a PCP referral will be required for the remainder of the fiscal year. These visits will apply to all related benefit limits. There is no fiscal impact.

The proposed rule is available for review at the Department of Human Services (DHS) 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](https://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](mailto:ORP@dhs.arkansas.gov). All public comments must be received by DHS no later than April 7, 2025. 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 by remote access through Zoom. Public comments may be submitted at the hearing. The details for attending the Zoom hearing appear at [ar.gov/dhszoom](https://ar.gov/dhszoom).

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 Elizabeth Pitman, director of the Division of Medical Services.

Please let the record reflect that we have zero attendees for today's public hearing. As we have no attendees, we will now go off the record.