

**Vaccine Counseling For Early And Periodic Screening, Diagnostic And Treatment (EPSDT)  
Zoom Public Hearing (7/3/24 @ 10:00 AM CST)**

**Mac Golden:** Good morning and welcome to a public hearing on a rule regarding vaccine counseling for early and periodic screening, diagnostic and treatment. Anita Castleberry of the Division of Medical Services, Business Operations Manager, will be announcing the Notice of Rule Making. After that we will open the floor for public comments. Please utilize the raise hand feature via zoom if you would like to make a comment on the record. All official responses to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rules website after the public comment period concludes. Ms. Castleberry will now read the notice of rulemaking.

**Anita Castleberry:** Mac, are you able to see the screen, the rulemaking?

**Mac Golden:** Yes.

**Anita Castleberry:** Okay. 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: §§20-76-201, 20-77-107, and 25-10-129.

The Division of Medical Services (DMS) amends the Arkansas Medicaid Children Health Services/Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Provider Manual in compliance with a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) State Health Officials Letter. CMS issued guidance on Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage and payment for "stand-alone vaccine counseling. CMS interprets the EPSDT benefit to require states to provide coverage of stand-alone vaccine counseling to Medicaid beneficiaries under the age of 21 who are eligible for EPSDT. The projected annual cost of this change for the current state fiscal year is \$1,194,138.00 (State share 167,179.00; Federal share \$1,026,959.00), and for the next state fiscal year \$4,776,552.00 (State share 1,170,255.00, Federal share \$3,606,297.00). The proposed effective date of the rule is September 1, 2024.

There are no changes to Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment services (EPSDT). DHS assures continued access to EPSDT services in compliance with 42 C.F.R. §440.345.

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://www.dhs.gov/dhs-proposed-rules). Public comments must 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 July 13, 2024. 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.

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.

**Mac Golden:** Thank you. Please let the record reflect we have one attendee for today's public hearing. If that attendee would like to make a public comment at this time, please utilize the raise hand feature. It does not appear the attendee wishes to make a public comment today.

We thank you for attending and will now go off the record.