

Medicaid Administrative Reconsiderations and Appeals

Zoom Public Hearing (02/12/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)

Mac Golden: Good morning and welcome to a public hearing regarding Medicaid Administrative Reconsideration and Appeals. I will announce the notice of rulemaking, and then I will open the floor for public comment. Please utilize the raise hand feature viz zoom, if you would like to make 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 Rule Making, the Department of Human Services (DHS) 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 proposed effective date is June 1, 2025.

The Division of Medical Services (DMS) amends numerous sections of the Arkansas Medicaid Provider Manuals and Medical Services Policy (MSP) Manual to ensure all DHS beneficiaries in DHS programs receive thirty (30) days' notice, which begins five (5) days after the date of the written notice, effectively allowing thirty-five (35) days, before any final adverse action is taken regarding their eligibility for assistance or availability of benefits. If a beneficiary files an administrative appeal of the final action within the notice period, eligibility or benefits will remain unchanged until a final appeal decision is issued. Updates to the MSP manual include clarification that some determinations are automated by system processes and details on when eligibility ends for an individual turning 65 in the Adult Expansion Group. DHS projects an annual fiscal impact of \$40,727,803.00 (federal share \$34,381,262; state share \$6,346,541).

The full list of manuals or sections of manuals affected are found in the full proposed rule available for review at ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules or 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. This notice also shall be posted at the local office of the Division of County Operations (DCO) of DHS in every county in the state.

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 February 17, 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.

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 Division of Medical Services.

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

Please let the record reflect that no attendee wishes to give a public comment today. We thank you for attending this public hearing, and we'll now go off the record.