

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arkansas Department of Health will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 10: 00 a.m. in the Freeway Medical Tower, Room 801, 5800 West 10th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, to allow interested persons an opportunity to comment on proposed revisions to the following two sets of administrative rules: *Rules and Regulations for Hospitals in Arkansas*; and *Rules and Regulations for Critical Access Hospitals in Arkansas*. Identical changes are proposed for each.

Major changes include updating and adding definitions; enhancing disaster planning/preparedness and infection control measures; specifying equipment and protocols in Emergency Departments and elsewhere; clarifying authority for orders and authentications; reflecting transferred authority for office-based surgeries to Arkansas State Medical Board; and changes in documentation and authentication of different types of records. This is the first general update since 2007 for the Hospital Rules and since 2008 for the Critical Access Hospital Rules.

Copies of the proposed revisions are available for public inspection and copying at the Arkansas Department of Health, Section of Health Facilities Services, Freeway Medical Tower, 5800 West 10th St., Suite 400, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72204. The proposed rules are also available for inspection online through the Health Department website at www.healthy.arkansas.gov, "Rules and Regulations" link, and also through the Secretary of State website: www.sos.arkansas.gov, "Administrative Rules" link.

The public may submit written comments regarding the proposed revisions by mail or in person to: Connie Melton, Section Chief, Health Facilities Services, Arkansas Department of Health, 5800 West 10th St., Ste. 400, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. Comments must be received no later than 12:00 noon on December 2, 2014.