

## NOTICE OF RULE MAKING

The Director of the Division of Medical Services hereby issues the following proposed medical assistance rule(s) under one or more of the following chapters or sections of the Arkansas Code: 20-10-211(a), 20-10-203(b), 20-76-433, 25-10-129, and Title 20, Chapter 77.

**Effective January 1, 2016, Medicaid Hospice Payment Rates were adjusted by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare services (CMS). Arkansas Medicaid is updating the Hospice Policy to be in compliance with federal guidance. This rule changes the payment methodology for Routine Home Care (RHC) to implement two rates that will result in a higher base payment for the first 60 days of hospice care and a reduced base payment rate for days thereafter. This also establishes an add-on payment for services provided by a registered nurse or social worker during the last seven days of a beneficiary's life. The estimated budget impact is \$1,036,183.**

The proposed policy is available for review at the Division of Medical Services, Program Development and Quality Assurance, 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 it on the Medicaid website ([www.medicaid.state.ar.us](http://www.medicaid.state.ar.us)), and download it from the "Proposed Rules For Public Comment" section of the website's *General* menu. Policy accessed from this location will be watermarked with the word "Proposed". All comments must be submitted in writing no later than December 30, 2016.

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, contact Program Development and Quality Assurance at 501-320-6429.

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. **4501638214 EL**

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Director  
Division of Medical Services