

## 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.

**The Arkansas Department of Human Services is promulgating the Independent Assessment Manual for the Arkansas Medicaid Independent Assessment for Beneficiaries with Behavioral Health and Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities Services Needs.**

**Effective October 1, 2017; Arkansas Medicaid will be implementing an Independent Assessment of beneficiaries with complex medical, behavioral health, and intellectual and developmental disabilities service needs. The Independent Assessment will determine the level of service need required for care coordination. Individuals who apply for, or renew existing plans for behavioral health or developmental disabilities services, will undergo an Independent Assessment (IA) and will be stratified into three levels of care - Tier I (lowest) Tier II (intermediate) and Tier III (highest). A fourth tier (Tier 0) is designated for those individuals assessed but who, based upon the assessment, do not need services.**

**The Independent Assessment will be performed by qualified assessors utilizing the MnCHOICES comprehensive functional assessment which will determine tier assignment. The MnCHOICES will incorporate built-in algorithms customized for Arkansas which align an individual's service eligibility and tiers. Depending on the Division that administers the specialty services, supplemental forms and tools may be used. The assessor will conduct the interview/assessment. Once completed, the tier determination will be calculated using the algorithms. The assessor will transmit the assessment and tier determination resulting from the assessment to the appropriate Division and PASSE.**

The proposed Independent Assessment policy is available for review in person at the Division of Medical Services, Program Planning and Development, 2nd floor Donaghey Plaza South Building, 7th and Main Streets, P. O. Box 1437, Slot S295, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437. The proposed policy may also be accessed and reviewed on the Arkansas Medicaid website ([www.medicaid.state.ar.us](http://www.medicaid.state.ar.us)), and may be downloaded from the "Proposed Rules For Public Comment" section of the website's *General* menu. Proposed policy accessed from this location will be watermarked with the word "Proposed." If you wish to comment on the proposed policy, all public comments must be in writing and submitted to the Department at the above address by no later than midnight August 11, 2017.

**On August 8, 2017 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services; Division of Developmental Disabilities Services and Division of Aging and Adult Services will hold a public hearing in the Jack D. Wilson Activity Room at the Arkansas Enterprises for the Developmentally Disabled Multipurpose Center, 105 East Roosevelt, Little Rock.**

If you need this material in a different format, such as large print, or are otherwise unable to review it in person or electronically, please contact Program Development and Quality Assurance at 501-320-6429 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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.

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Dawn Stehle, Director  
Division of Medical Services