

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 updating the Home Health, Hospice, Personal Care, Private Duty Nursing, Rural Health Clinic Provider Manuals; the ARChoices and IndependentChoices Provider Manuals; and the Personal Care State Plan Page.

Effective January 1, 2018; Arkansas Medicaid will require that all personal care services must be prior authorized. An independent assessment will be administered to determine what medically necessary services are required to assist beneficiaries with their physical dependency needs. The independent assessment will drive the prior authorization and determine the number of hours needed. Personal Care services no longer require a physician's authorization or signature.

Additionally, all owners, principals, employees, and contract staff of the provider's referenced in these manuals must submit to an independent, national criminal background check, identity verification, and fingerprinting. Background checks must be repeated every three years.

These proposed amendments are 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), 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 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.

Dawn Stehle, Director
Division of Medical Services