

Obstetric Professional Rate Increase and Unbundling
Zoom Public Hearing (04/30/25 @ 10:00 AM CST)

Mac Golden: Good morning and welcome to the public hearing on the rule regarding Obstetric Professional Rate Increase and Unbundling. I will be announcing the notice of rulemaking, and then I will open the floor for public comments. If you would like to make a comment on the record, please utilize the raise hand feature via Zoom. DHS response to public comments will appear on the DHS proposed rule website after the comment period ends. I will now read the notice.

Notice of rulemaking. 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 of the rule is July 1, 2025.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) seeks to revise the rate and claims process for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum professional services under Medicaid pursuant to Acts 124 and 140 of 2025, known widely as “Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies”. The goal of the rate and claims revision is to improve Medicaid reimbursement to ensure adequate access to care and to improve Medicaid’s data collection on utilization of prenatal and postpartum services. DHS will submit a state plan amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) to implement the new rate and claims process. Implementation also requires updates to the Certified Nurse Midwife, Federally Qualified Health Center, Nurse Practitioner, Physician, and Rural Health Center Medicaid provider manuals. The proposed rule estimates a financial impact of \$38,030,852.00 per fiscal year (State \$11,702,093; Federal \$26,328,759).

The proposed rule is available for review 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. You may also access and download the proposed rule at ar.gov/dhs-proposed-rules

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 May 10, 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.

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 twelve attendees for today's hearing. If any attendee would like to make a public comment at this time. Please utilize the raise hand feature; you'll be recognized to give a comment.

I will pause for 10 seconds.

It does not appear that any attendee wishes to make a public comment today. If you wish to make one later, please email our office at ORP@dhs.arkansa.gov.

This public hearing will now go off record.