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3 State of Arkansas
4 94th General Assembly

A Bill

JMB/JMB
SENATE BILL

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6
7 By: Senator C. Penzo

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9 Filed with: Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor
10 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

11 For An Act To Be Entitled

12 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO
13 RECOGNIZE A PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AS A PRIMARY CARE
14 PROVIDER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

15 16 17 Subtitle

18 TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID
19 PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE A PHYSICIAN
20 ASSISTANT AS A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER.

21
22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-140 is amended to read as follows:

25 20-77-140. Primary care provider for Arkansas Medicaid Program –
26 Advanced practice registered nurse and physician assistant.

27 (a)(1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall recognize an advanced
28 practice registered nurse licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing ~~for~~
29 ~~all purposes~~ as a primary care provider authorized to carry out the following
30 duties of a primary care case manager, ~~except as provided under subdivision~~
31 ~~(a)(3) of this section.~~

32 ~~(2) Purposes under subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section include~~
33 ~~without limitation:~~

34 (A) Being recognized and serving as the initial healthcare
35 provider in the program;

36 (B) Performing initial diagnosis;

1 (C) Acting as the team leader of family practice
2 professionals and the patient-centered medical home;

3 (D) Maintaining the medical records of a patient;

4 (E) Ordering laboratory tests and records management as
5 needed for patient care;

6 (F) Providing preventive and periodic examinations within
7 primary care;

8 (G) Referring a patient to a physician, a specialist, or a
9 hospital when necessary; and

10 (H) Treating a patient within the scope of practice and
11 licensure of an advanced practice registered nurse.

12 (2) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall recognize a physician
13 assistant licensed by the Arkansas State Medical Board as a primary care
14 provider authorized to carry out the following duties of a primary care case
15 manager:

16 (A) Being recognized and serving as the initial healthcare
17 provider in the program; and

18 (B) Treating a patient within the scope of practice and
19 licensure of a physician assistant under § 17-105-107.

20 ~~(3) Purposes under subdivision (a)(1) of this section do not~~
21 ~~include owning a patient centered medical home.~~

22 (b) The program shall reimburse an advanced practice registered nurse
23 or physician assistant:

24 (1) Not less than the current reimbursement rate for services
25 performed within the scope of practice and licensure of the advanced practice
26 registered nurse or physician assistant; and

27 (2) One hundred percent (100%) of the physician reimbursement
28 rate for all out-of-pocket costs incurred by the advanced practice registered
29 nurse or physician assistant such as the costs of laboratory tests, X-rays,
30 and any additional tests ordered or conducted by the advanced practice
31 registered nurse or physician assistant.

32 (c) A healthcare insurance policy in which the premiums are paid
33 directly or indirectly by the program also shall recognize and reimburse an
34 advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant under subsections
35 (a) and (b) of this section.

36 (d) This section does not:

1 (1) Increase ~~increase~~ the scope of practice or licensure of an
2 advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant; or

3 (2) Permit an advanced practice registered nurse or physician
4 assistant to own a patient-centered medical home.

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Referred by Senator C. Penzo

Prepared by: JMB/JMB