

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1427

By: Representatives Pilkington, Wardlaw, Hudson, L. Johnson, Bentley

By: Senators Irvin, B. Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE HEALTHY MOMS, HEALTHY BABIES
ACT; TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH
IN THIS STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE HEALTHY MOMS, HEALTHY
BABIES ACT; AND TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW TO
IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH IN THIS STATE.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Healthy Moms, Healthy
Babies Act".

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-77-151 is repealed to be reenacted and
transferred to another subchapter of the Arkansas Code.

~~20-77-151. Depression screening for pregnant women.~~

~~(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall reimburse for depression
screening of a pregnant woman.~~

~~(b) The Department of Human Services shall apply for any federal
waiver, Medicaid state plan amendments, or other authority necessary to
implement this section.~~

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 29 – Maternal Health



20-77-2901. Depression screening for pregnant women.

(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall reimburse for depression screening of a pregnant woman.

(b) The Department of Human Services shall apply for any federal waiver, Medicaid state plan amendments, or other authority necessary to implement this section.

20-77-2902. Coverage of prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services.

(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall reimburse for prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services separately in lieu of a global payment or an all-inclusive payment methodology for maternity services.

(b) Prenatal, delivery, and postpartum services include without limitation:

(1) Office visits;

(2) Laboratory fees;

(3) Physician ordered testing;

(4) Blood work;

(5) Remote monitoring;

(6) Fetal nonstress tests; and

(7) Continuous glucose monitors or other services for gestational diabetes when medically necessary.

(c) This section does not alter coverage provided through the Arkansas Health and Opportunity for Me Program or a risk-based provider organization under the Medicaid Provider-Led Organized Care Act, § 20-77-2701 et seq.

20-77-2903. Presumptive eligibility for pregnant women.

(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall make presumptive eligibility determinations for pregnant women who are applying for the program to improve access to prenatal care and allow prenatal care to be delivered immediately while waiting for a full application to be processed.

(b) The program may designate one (1) or more qualified entities to screen for eligibility and immediately enroll pregnant women into the program.

20-77-2904. Blood pressure monitoring for pregnant and postpartum

women.

(a) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall provide coverage and reimbursement for self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services for pregnant women and postpartum women.

(b) Self-measurement blood pressure monitoring services shall include:

(1) Validated blood pressure monitoring devices, such as a blood pressure cuff and replacement cuffs, as medically necessary, to diagnose or treat hypertension;

(2) Patient education and training on the set-up and use of a self-measurement blood pressure measurement device that is validated for clinical accuracy, device calibration, and the procedure for obtaining self-measurement readings; and

(3) Collection of data reports by the patient or caregiver for submission to a healthcare provider to communicate blood pressure readings and create or modify treatment plans.

20-77-2905. Reimbursement for remote ultrasound procedures.

(a)(1) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall reimburse for medically necessary remote ultrasound procedures utilizing established Current Procedural Terminology codes for remote ultrasound procedures when the patient is in a residence or other off-site location from the healthcare provider of the patient and the same standard of care is met.

(2) Subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall apply to the fee-for-service categories of the program and any managed care plan within the program.

(b) A remote ultrasound procedure shall be reimbursable when the healthcare provider uses digital technology that:

(1) Collects medical and other forms of health data from a patient and electronically transmits the information securely to a healthcare provider in a different location for interpretation and recommendation;

(2) Is compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 42 U.S.C. § 1320d et seq., as it existed on January 1, 2025; and

(3) Is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

20-77-2906. Coverage for certain services provided by doulas and community health workers.

The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall reimburse doulas and community health workers for home visitation related to prenatal care and postpartum care.

20-77-2907. Implementation and rules.

The Department of Human Services shall:

- (1) Apply for any federal waiver, Medicaid state plan amendments, or other authority necessary to implement this subchapter; and
- (2) Adopt rules to implement this subchapter.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 16-114-203(c), concerning the statute of limitations, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) ~~If~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if an individual is nine (9) years of age or younger at the time of the act, omission, or failure complained of, the minor or person claiming on behalf of the minor shall have until the later of the minor's eleventh birthday or two (2) years from the act, omission, or failure in which to commence an action.

(2) ~~However, if~~ If no medical injury is known and could not reasonably have been discovered prior to the minor's eleventh birthday, then the minor or his or her representative shall have until two (2) years after the medical injury is known or reasonably could have been discovered, or until the minor's nineteenth birthday, whichever is earlier, in which to commence an action.

(3) If an alleged medical injury occurred during childbirth, the minor or his or her representative shall have until the minor's fifth birthday to commence an action.

APPROVED: 2/20/25