

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas  
93rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2021

As Engrossed: H2/24/21 S3/17/21  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1254

By: Representatives Wardlaw, M. Gray, Dotson

By: Senator K. Hammer

### **For An Act To Be Entitled**

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO  
RECOGNIZE AN ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE AS A  
PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### **Subtitle**

TO AUTHORIZE THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID  
PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE AN ADVANCED PRACTICE  
REGISTERED NURSE AS A PRIMARY CARE  
PROVIDER.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-77-140. Primary care provider for Arkansas Medicaid Program – Advanced practice registered nurse.

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

(2) Purposes under subdivision (a)(1) of this section include without limitation:

(A) Being recognized as the initial healthcare provider in the Arkansas Medicaid Program;

(B) Performing initial diagnosis;



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

(D) Maintaining the medical records of a patient;

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

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

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

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

(3) Purposes under subdivision (a)(1) of this section does not include owning a patient-centered medical home.

(b) The program shall reimburse an advanced practice registered nurse:

(1) Not less than the current reimbursement rate for services performed within the scope of practice and licensure of the advanced practice registered nurse; and

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

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

(d) This section does not increase the scope of practice or licensure of an advanced practice registered nurse.

*/s/Wardlaw*