

**211.300 Primary Care Physician (PCP) Referral**7-1-176-1-  
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Each beneficiary who receives School-Based Mental Health Services can receive a limited amount of services. Once those limits are reached, a Primary Care Physician (PCP) referral or Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) approval will be necessary to continue treatment. This referral or approval must be retained in the beneficiary's medical record.

A beneficiary can receive ~~three (3)~~ten (10) School-Based Mental Health Services before a PCP/PCMH referral is necessary. No services will be allowed to be provided without appropriate PCP/PCMH referral. The PCP/PCMH referral must be kept in the beneficiary's medical record.

The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) will be responsible for coordinating care with a beneficiary's PCP or physician for School-Based Mental Health Services. Medical responsibility for beneficiaries receiving School-Based Mental Health Services shall be vested in a physician licensed in Arkansas.

The PCP referral or PCMH authorization for School-Based Mental Health Services will serve as the prescription for those services.

See Section I of this manual for the PCP procedures. A PCP referral is generally obtained prior to providing service to Medicaid-eligible children. However, a PCP is given the option of providing a referral after a service is provided. If a PCP chooses to make a referral after a service has been provided, the referral must be received by the SBMH provider no later than 45 calendar days after the date of service. The PCP has no obligation to give a retroactive referral.

The SBMH provider may not file a claim and will not be reimbursed for any services provided that require a PCP referral unless the referral is received.

**217.100 Primary Care Physician (PCP) Referral****6-1-213-4-  
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Each beneficiary that receives only Counseling Level Services in the Outpatient Behavioral Health Services program can receive a limited amount of Counseling Level Services. Once those limits are reached, a Primary Care Physician (PCP) referral or PCMH approval will be necessary to continue treatment. This referral or approval must be retained in the beneficiary's medical record.

A beneficiary can receive ~~three (3)~~ten (10) Counseling Level services before a PCP/PCMH referral is necessary. Crisis Intervention (Section 255.001) does not count toward the ~~three (3)~~ten (10) counseling level services. No services, except Crisis Intervention, will be allowed to be provided without appropriate PCP/PCMH referral. The PCP/PCMH referral must be kept in the beneficiary's medical record.

The Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) will be responsible for coordinating care with a beneficiary's PCP or physician for Counseling Level Services. Medical responsibility for beneficiaries receiving Counseling Level Services shall be vested in a physician licensed in Arkansas.

The PCP referral or PCMH authorization for Counseling Level Services will serve as the prescription for those services.

Verbal referrals from PCPs or PCMHs are acceptable to Medicaid as long as they are documented in the beneficiary's chart as described in Section 171.410.

See Section I of this manual for an explanation of the process to obtain a PCP referral.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

As Engrossed: H4/7/21

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1862

5 By: Representative L. Johnson  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT REQUIRING *CERTAIN REFERRALS* FROM A  
9 PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IN ORDER FOR A BENEFICIARY IN  
10 THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM TO RECEIVE MENTAL  
11 HEALTH COUNSELING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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### Subtitle

14 *TO PROHIBIT REQUIRING CERTAIN REFERRALS*  
15 *FROM A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER IN ORDER FOR*  
16 *A BENEFICIARY IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID*  
17 *PROGRAM TO RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH*  
18 *COUNSELING.*  
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is  
25 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

26 20-77-142. Prohibition on referrals for mental health counseling.

27 *The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall not require a beneficiary to first*  
28 *obtain a referral from a primary care provider before receiving mental health*  
29 *counseling for the first ten (10) visits for mental health counseling.*  
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31 /s/L. Johnson  
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34 APPROVED: 4/25/21  
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