

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1574

5 By: Representative Vaught  
6 By: Senator K. Hammer  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO SUPPORT POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH FOR FAMILIES  
10 WITH YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGH THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID  
11 PROGRAM; TO ESTABLISH SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT  
12 RATES FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH  
13 COVERAGE IN THE ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM; AND FOR  
14 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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18 TO SUPPORT POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH FOR  
19 FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN THROUGH THE  
20 ARKANSAS MEDICAID PROGRAM; AND TO  
21 ESTABLISH SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT  
22 RATES FOR PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR  
23 CHILDREN.  
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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 77, Subchapter 1, is  
29 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 20-77-148. Legislative findings – Supplemental reimbursement rates for  
31 preventive services for children.

32 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

33 (1) Prevention and early intervention in child health and well-  
34 being improves health outcomes and saves money in the long term;

35 (2) A significant proportion of pediatric behavioral healthcare  
36 claims in Arkansas occur in primary care settings;



1           (3) Through training and practice transformation, primary care  
2 healthcare teams can address preventive behavioral health and family needs  
3 through integrated care teams which include licensed mental health staff or  
4 non-licensed mental health staff, or both; and

5           (4) The Mental Health and Behavioral Health Working Group in  
6 2022 made a recommendation to incentivize medical homes, through supplemental  
7 reimbursement rates, to address prevention and early intervention through  
8 universal, team-based enhanced primary care services for children.

9           (b) As used in this section:

10           (1) “Actively participate in” means a physician practice has  
11 completed training to implement a team-based, evidence-based pediatric  
12 practice transformation model of care and is on track to achieve, or has  
13 achieved, model fidelity according to requirements established by an entity  
14 that utilizes data and outcomes; and

15           (2) “Team-based, evidence-based pediatric practice  
16 transformation model of care” means a research-informed model of primary  
17 health care for children that has demonstrated improved physical health,  
18 behavioral health, developmental outcomes, and social outcomes for children  
19 and their families.

20           (c) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall:

21           (1) Provide a supplemental reimbursement rate for physician  
22 practices enrolled in the patient-centered medical home program that  
23 currently and actively participate in a team-based, evidence-based pediatric  
24 practice transformation model of care; and

25           (2) Collaborate with experts in pediatric health care to select  
26 the team-based, evidence-based pediatric practice transformation models of  
27 care most appropriate for use with the patient-centered medical home program.

28           (d) The supplemental reimbursement rate described in subsection (c) of  
29 this section shall:

30           (1) Supplement, through an additional medical code or modifier,  
31 fee-for-service wellness and sick visit primary care visit rates in a child’s  
32 medical home by fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per visit for the child from birth  
33 until the child’s fourth birthday;

34           (2) Support the physician practices enrolled in the patient-  
35 centered medical home program to employ interdisciplinary staff required to  
36 implement the patient-centered medical home program; and

1           (3) Be reviewed periodically in conjunction with future Medicaid  
2 rate reviews for physician services.

3           (e)(1) A physician practice enrolled in the patient-centered medical  
4 home program shall work with an entity that utilizes data and outcomes to  
5 demonstrate adherence to a team-based, evidence-based pediatric practice  
6 transformation model of care focused on young children and families.

7           (2) The Arkansas Medicaid Program shall keep on file a letter,  
8 updated annually, verifying the physician practice enrolled in the patient-  
9 centered medical home program actively participates in a team-based,  
10 evidence-based pediatric practice transformation model of care.

11           (f) On or before January 1, 2024, the Department of Human Services  
12 shall submit and apply for any federal waivers, Medicaid state plan  
13 amendments, or other authority necessary to implement this section.

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