

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
AHCCCS Administration 2016 Access Monitoring Review Plan

1. **Name of the Agency:** Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
2. **The topic of the public information notice:** AHCCCS 2016 Access Monitoring Review Plan
3. **The public information relating to the topic:**

- a. The AHCCCS Administration is seeking public review and comment of its proposed Access Monitoring Review Plan for the AHCCCS fee-for-service population as specified in final federal rules published in 80 FR 67576 "Medicaid Program; Methods for Assuring Access to Covered Medicaid Services." The final federal rules amended Medicaid regulations delineated in 42 CFR Part 447 by specifying requirements and processes for States to review data and trends to evaluate beneficiary access to Medicaid services through a process referred to as an Access Monitoring Review Plan.

The Access Monitoring Review Plan will be used to determine whether fee-for-service provider payment rates are consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care and whether provider payments are sufficient to enlist enough providers so that care and services to fee-for-service Medicaid beneficiaries are available at least to the extent that such care and services are available to the general population in the geographic area. Feedback from public comment regarding the adequacy of access to covered services must also be considered. Through this transparent, data-driven process, the Access Monitoring Review Plan will monitor and measure beneficiary access to Medicaid services consistent with 42 USC 1396a(a)(30)(A) and 42 CFR 447.203.

The Access Monitoring Review Plan, which is submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), must include analysis of specific service categories at least every three years. A core set of the following five service categories must be evaluated in the Access Monitoring Review Plan: primary care services, physician specialist services, behavioral health services, pre- and post- natal obstetric services (including labor and delivery), and home health services. States must also include analysis of data for additional types of services when either the State or CMS has received a higher than usual volume of stakeholder access complaints in a geographic area.

The Access Monitoring Review Plan includes the following components:

- Data elements that support AHCCCS' analysis of whether beneficiaries have sufficient access to care.
- Consideration of beneficiary and provider input describing access to care concerns or suggestions for improvement in access to care.
- Comparative payment review with an analysis of the percentage comparison of Medicaid payment rates to other public and private health insurer payment rates within geographic areas for each reviewed service
- Specific measures used to analyze access to care, how the measures relate to the access monitoring review plan, baseline and updated data associated with the measures, issues with access discovered as a result of the review, and recommendations on the sufficiency of access to care based on the review.

The AHCCCS Administration intends to submit the Access Monitoring Review Plan to CMS on or before October 1, 2016. CMS expects that a State's Access Monitoring Review Plan will be an evolving document which will develop greater sophistication over time.

- b. The proposed 2016 Access Monitoring Review Plan for AHCCCS is available for public review at the following link: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/PublicNotices/>

The federal final rules delineating the requirements in 42 CFR Part 447 can be found at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-02/pdf/2015-27697.pdf>.

- c. Comments regarding the AHCCCS Administration 2016 Access Monitoring Review Plan may be submitted electronically at FSAccessMonitoringReview@azahcccs.gov or in writing to:

Fee-for-Service Access Monitoring Review
 Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
 701 E. Jefferson St., MD 6100
 Phoenix, AZ 85034

Any comments requesting inclusion of additional data must specify the source where the data can be obtained. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 29, 2016.

- d. Many public libraries offer access to the internet. In addition, the information can be obtained at the Offices of the AHCCCS Administration, 701 E. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85034.