Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative

I. What is the ADHD episode, and how will the episode model encourage more effective and efficient care?

Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is the most common behavioral disorder of childhood. Given that ADHD often co-occurs with other behavioral health conditions, treatment occurs in a wide array of settings. Today, the care delivered across these multiple settings varies tremendously by provider. The initial version of the ADHD episode encourages stronger use of evidence-based care in the treatment of ADHD, specifically addressing those patients without co-occurring behavioral health conditions.

II. Key features of the ADHD episode

- **Episode definition:** The episode includes all ADHD-related care provided during the 12-month duration of the episode, excluding initial assessment. This includes the full range of services provided (e.g., physician visits, psychosocial therapy) as well as all medication used to treat ADHD. If a patient continues treatment after the end of the initial 12-month episode, a new episode is triggered.

- **Episode levels:** There are two progressive levels to the ADHD episode. New patients begin in Level I, and will remain there as long as they respond positively to medication management and other first-line treatments. For patients who experience an inadequate treatment response, providers will certify the severity or rationale in order to begin a Level II episode. Each type of episode will have its own cost thresholds.

- **Principal Accountable Provider:** The Principal Accountable Provider (PAP) for the ADHD episode is the provider who delivers the majority of care, determined by number of visits and cost of services delivered. When physicians or Rehabilitative Services for Persons with Mental Illness (RSPMI) provider organizations deliver the majority of care, they will be the sole PAP. When a licensed clinical psychologist not associated with an RSPMI delivers the majority of care, he or she will require a co-PAP with the ability to write a prescription for medication.

- **Quality measures:** Providers will use a user-friendly Provider Portal to certify that their assessment and treatment are delivered according to relevant clinical guidelines. Providers will receive reports highlighting their performance on a number of cost and quality measures.

- **Adjustments and exclusions:** The initial ADHD episode excludes all patients with comorbid behavioral health conditions. The episode includes only patients ages 6 to 17.