**MEMORANDUM (DMS-45)**

To: Outpatient Behavioral Health Agencies Certified as Acute Crisis Units

From: Division of Medical Services (DMS)

Date: December 3, 2020

Re: Extension of Benefit for Acute Crisis Units

As you know, the Governor declared a public health emergency on March 12, 2020, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Arkansas. In response to this declaration, DMS is suspending the Acute Crisis Unit benefit limits of 96 hours per encounter, one encounter per month, and 6 encounters per state fiscal year

The rule to be suspended is in Section 253.003 of the Outpatient Behavioral Health Services Provider Manual.

The allowable code for this rule suspension:

* Acute Crisis Unit
  + H0018 U4
  + Benefit Limits 96 hours or less per encounter, 1 encounter per month, 6 encounters per SFY

**The rule will be suspended until the Governor declares the end to the public health emergency in Arkansas.**

**To ensure quality and consistency of care to Medicaid beneficiaries, DMS will coordinate with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) to conduct retrospective reviews and audits of services provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Retrospective reviews will be conducted on 100% of beneficiaries whose stay exceeds 96 hours and for stays more frequent than once a month and/or six times per state fiscal year. Please keep all records of services as required by Medicaid billing rules.**