



**SURGEON GENERAL, STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**JOSEPH W. THOMPSON, MD, MPH**

November 6, 2014

Ms. Aimee Olinghouse  
Executive Director  
American Academy of Pediatrics, Arkansas Chapter  
3315 Doral Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72212

Dear Aimee:

The development of team-based care through the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model has served as a core element of the Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative (AHCPII). Provider enrollment and number of beneficiaries served by the PCMH program have exceeded initial expectations, with 912 primary care physicians currently participating and approximately 290,000 Arkansans being served by a PCMH. The participation of and input from your organization's membership has been a driving force behind the program's success.

I am pleased to let you know that there will be additional PCMH support forthcoming by the insurance carriers offering plans through the health insurance marketplace in 2015. Pursuant to requirements in the Health Care Independence Act (the "Private Option") and a regulation implemented by the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID), five statewide marketplace carriers will reinforce the state's PCMH model by joining Medicaid in providing financial support to participating PCMH practices for care coordination and practice transformation achievements. In April 2015, per-member, per-month (PMPM) payments averaging a minimum of \$5 are expected to begin for marketplace plan beneficiaries who are attributed to Medicaid-enrolled PCMH practices that are in good standing. Enrollment in private plans through the marketplace, including individuals enrolled in private plans through Private Option, now number more than 225,000 Arkansans. The additional marketplace carrier support will happen alongside Medicaid's issuing of its first payments to PCMH practices based on its shared savings model, which marketplace carriers will be developing for launch in 2016.

This reinforcing, multi-payer support is crucial to the continued success of the state's PCMH model and, importantly, to continue to provide Arkansans with improved health outcomes and enhanced patient experiences. However, this financial support for the Arkansas PCMH program is **available only to those primary care practices that enroll by November 17, 2014.** Practices that have previously participated in the PCMH program **must re-enroll by this deadline** to remain in the program.

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Marketplace carriers will offer PMPM support for attributed beneficiaries only to those practices that have enrolled. Enrollment information may be found at [www.paymentinitiative.org](http://www.paymentinitiative.org).

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 501-526-2231, or by email at [ThompsonJosephW@uams.edu](mailto:ThompsonJosephW@uams.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Thompson MD MPH". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph W. Thompson, MD, MPH  
Surgeon General, State of Arkansas  
Director, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement