



# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson  
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## PROPOSED REVISIONS TO RULES FOR HOSPICES IN ARKANSAS

**April 26, 2022**

### **BACKGROUND**

Pursuant to A.C.A. § 20-7-117, § 20-7-123, and § 20-38-101 et seq., the Department has authority to promulgate the Rules for Hospices in Arkansas. These rules ensure high quality professional care for terminally ill patients and their families by providing for the safe, humane and appropriate palliative care of all admitted to a hospice program regardless of setting and shall apply to both new and existing agencies.

### **KEY POINTS**

The proposed rule:

- Adds a visitation restriction to comply with Act 311 of 2021.
- Clarifies that Tuberculosis policies should conform to current CDC Guidelines.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Rules for Hospices in Arkansas are duly adopted and promulgated by the Arkansas State Board of Health pursuant to the authority expressly conferred by the laws of the State of Arkansas in Ark. Code Ann. § 20-7-117, § 20-7-123, and § 20-38-101 et seq.

There was one legislative act – Act 311 – which required modification to the Rules for Hospice Agencies in Arkansas which added a visitation restriction provision. Hospice Rules had open visitation previously to Act 311.

Section 8-3 was changed as follows:

Annual testing of each employee having direct patient contact for tuberculosis. Each employee having direct patient contact, regardless of whether the employee is a reactor, non-reactor, or converter, shall be tested or evaluated in accordance with the applicable section of the Tuberculosis Manual of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services; There shall be measures for prevention of communicable disease outbreaks, especially mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB). All plans for the prevention of

transmission of TB shall conform to the most current CDC Guidelines for Preventing the Transmission of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis in Healthcare Facilities

This conforms to the TB policy changes made by the Department in 2019.