

A Few House Keeping Items

- First, we have simultaneous interpretation in both American Sign Language and Spanish.
- Everyone will be able to see the ASL interpreters. Everyone will have to choose to hear the meeting in English or Spanish.
- At the bottom of your Zoom window, you should see an Interpretation button. Please click that.
- Next, select either English or Spanish.
- We will now give everyone a minute to select their language.

Welcome to the AHCCCS Emergency Rule and Policy Update Meeting

- You were automatically muted upon entry.
- Please only join by phone or computer.
- Please use the chat feature for questions and/or comments

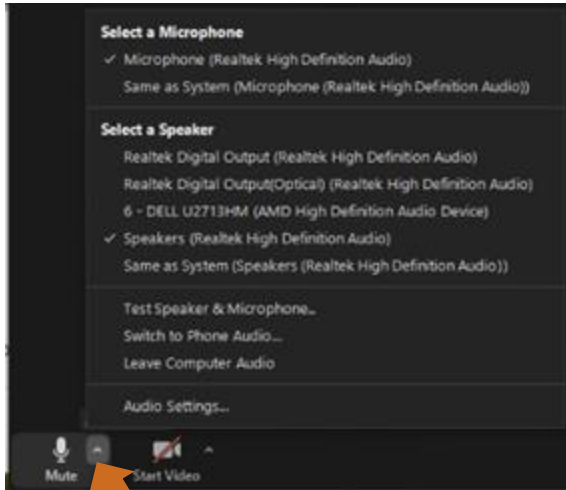
Thank you!



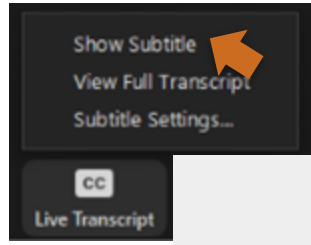
Zoom Webinar Controls

Navigating your bar on the bottom...

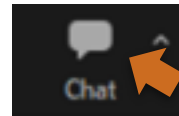
Audio Settings



Turn on Closed Captioning



Chat



Audio Settings

Settings

General
Video
Audio
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Virtual Background
Recording
Statistics
Keyboard Shortcuts
Accessibility

Speaker **Test Speaker** Built-in Output (Internal Speakers)
Output Level: [Progress Bar]
Output Volume: [Slider]

Microphone **Test Mic** Built-in Microphone (Internal Micropho...
Input Level: [Progress Bar]
Input Volume: [Slider]
☒ Automatically adjust microphone volume
☐ Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously

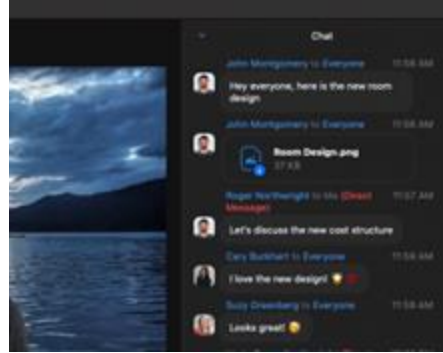
☒ Join audio by computer when joining a meeting
☐ Mute microphone when joining a meeting
☒ Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself

Advanced

Webinar Tips



**Limit background
noise and distractions
if feasible.**



Use chat feature (or Q&A when available) to ask questions or share resources.

This Meeting Is Being Recorded

The recording shall be the sole property of AHCCCS; participation in this meeting indicates your waiver of any and all rights of publicity and privacy.

This recording will be posted to the AHCCCS website after conclusion of this meeting.

Please disconnect from this meeting if you do not agree to these terms.





ALTCS Emergency Rule and Policy Updates

November 2025

Welcome and Overview

Jakenna Lebsock,
Deputy Assistant Director,
Division of Managed Care -
ALTCS



AGENDA

- Overview
 - Emergency Rule
 - Regular Rulemaking
 - AHCCCS Requirements
- Policies
- Additional Next Steps
- Timeline
- How to Engage

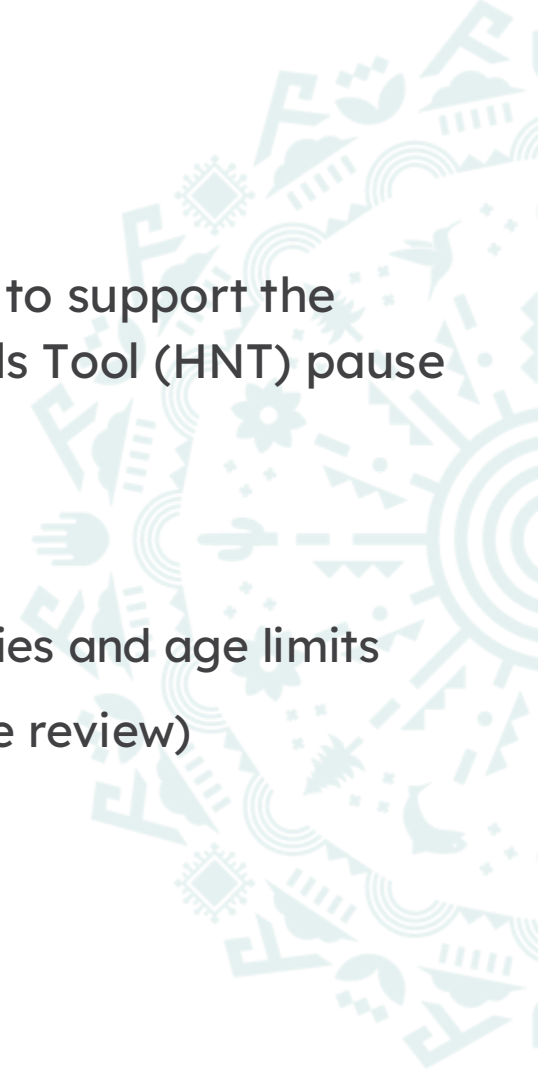




Overview

What Is Happening?

- AHCCCS was directed to pursue an [emergency rule](#) to support the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Needs Tool (HNT) pause for children under the age of 18.
- This allows AHCCCS to:
 - Revise the HNT, including the assessment categories and age limits
 - Establish an exception process (extraordinary care review)



What Does This Mean?

- An Emergency Rule is a short-term (180 day) rule in the Arizona Administrative Code that gives an agency authority to take certain actions □ basically like an instruction manual.
- It gives direction to AHCCCS, who then has to make sure policies follow the Rule.
- AHCCCS must follow (comply with) the Rule and make sure the health plans (including DDD) also follow the requirements.
 - AHCCCS does this through policies:
 - [AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual](#)
 - [AHCCCS Contractor Operations Manual](#)

Why Does This Matter?

- The Governor's Office and AHCCCS heard there were a lot of concerns about some of the new policies that were implemented on October 1, 2025.
- Governor Hobbs [directed AHCCCS](#) to pause the policies, specifically the HNT for children under 18, to create an exception process and revise the tool to make any appropriate updates.
 - This provided some relief to members, families, advocates and providers who were concerned about the policies and the impact they may have on AHCCCS members.
 - This also provides the agency and the community an opportunity to rework the policies.

What Has AHCCCS Done So Far?

- After the Emergency Rule was approved by the Secretary of State, AHCCCS started to meet with stakeholders to hear what should be updated, including:
 - Health plans (including DDD), parents/parent representatives, legal advocates, providers/provider advocates, I/DD experts, and community-based developmental pediatricians.
- AHCCCS has taken the feedback and drafted policies that will soon be posted for public comment.
 - Some policies, such as the HNT, have been revised.
 - One policy (the HNT Exception process) is new.



Policies

What Policies Will be Updated or Created?

- AHCCCS will post four policies for public comment:
 - 1620-17A: HCBS Needs Tool (revised)
 - 1620-17B: HNT Guidance for Child Tool (revised)
 - 1620-17C: HNT Guidance for Adult Tool (revised)
 - ACOM 450: ALTCS Extraordinary Care Review Process for Minor Members (new); will also include an attachment
- In order to meet the requirements of the Rule and state law, policies will be open for an expedited public comment period.
 - This means that they will be posted for 14 days to review and provide feedback on.



Where Can I Find More Information about Policies?

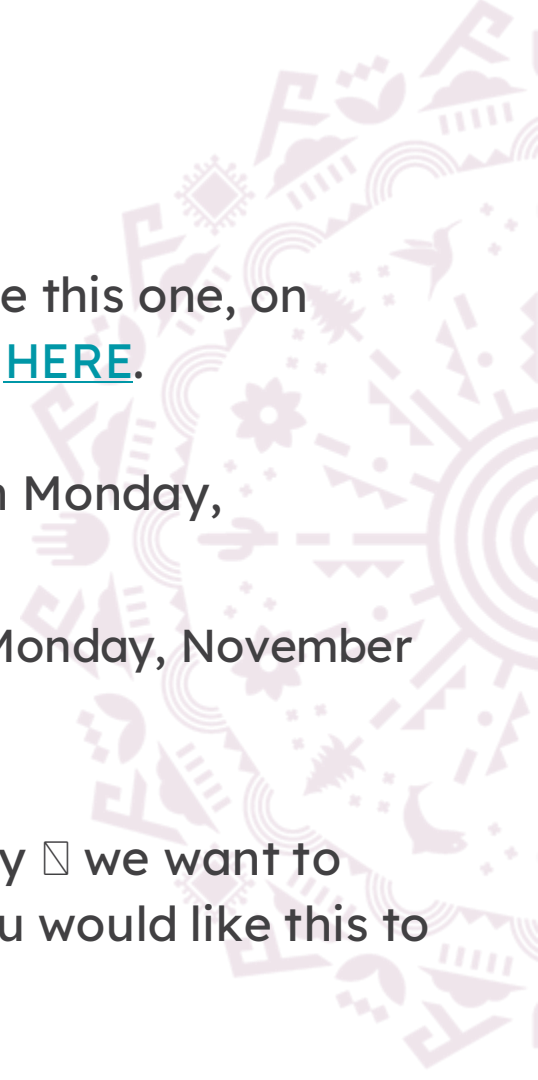
- AHCCCS will post policies for public comment on our website:
 - <https://ahcccs.commentinput.com/comment>
- You can get updates on policies as they post for public comment by signing up [HERE](#).
- AHCCCS will host two public forums about the policies once they are posted:
 - November 13: 10:00-11:30 AM ☐ register [HERE](#).
 - November 17: 6:00-7:30 PM ☐ register [HERE](#).

Next Steps



What Happens After This?

- AHCCCS will host another information forum just like this one, on Monday, November 10 from 6:00-7:30 PM ☐ register [HERE](#).
- Policies are expected to post for public comment on Monday, November 10.
 - Policies will be open for public comment through Monday, November 24.
- AHCCCS will continue to engage with the community ☐ we want to hear from you and would welcome ideas on how you would like this to happen and how often you want this to happen?



What Happens with the Emergency Rule?

- The Emergency Rule is valid for 180 days (until April 13, 2026).
- AHCCCS will need to pursue Regular Rulemaking .
 - A Regular Rule is a permanent rule in the Arizona Administrative Code. Regular Rules are not time limited but are reviewed every five years to make sure they are still needed.
 - This means that AHCCCS will have to look at the Emergency Rule, figure out any needed changes, and then go through the Rulemaking process.
- Regular Rulemaking has several steps:
 - Key steps include informal feedback, an economic impact study, formal public comment, a hearing at AHCCCS, a presentation and hearing with the Governor's Regulatory Review Council, and approval by the Secretary of State.

What do I Need to Know About Regular Rulemaking?

- Rules are mainly for agency purposes ☐ but they are important to be aware of as they can impact how health plans (including DDD) provide services to members.
- AHCCCS will begin working on the Regular Rulemaking after policies close for public comment and all the feedback is reviewed.
- AHCCCS will seek feedback on the Rule in several ways:
 - Public forums (not yet scheduled)
 - Stakeholder workgroups
 - Public Comment
- We would like to hear from you if you have questions or want additional information:
 - PPCG@azahcccs.gov



Timelines

Timelines

- November 10: Informational Public Forum
- November 10: AHCCCS releases Policies for Public Comment (*expected*)
- November 13: In-depth Policy Overview Public Forum
- November 17: In-depth Policy Overview Public Forum
- November 24: Policies close for Public Comment
- Early December: AHCCCS finalizes Policies and starts to work on Regular Rulemaking
- December ☐ Early January: AHCCCS gets feedback on draft Regular Rule
- Early January: Final policies are implemented (starts using the new HNT)
- Early January: Health plans (including DDD) finalize/implement their Exception process
- Early February: Regular Rule presented to GRRC
- February: Regular Rule is finalized and signed

How To Engage



How to Engage

- Public Forums
- Email Us: PPCG@azahcccs.gov
 - With questions/concerns
 - With ideas on how to best engage you
- Talk to your support agencies/advocacy organizations
 - They'll share feedback and ideas for us to consider.
- Talk to your health plan
 - They'll follow up with us as needed.
- Review policies and provide Public Comment
- Read the Regular Rule (once available) and share your thoughts



Public Forums

- Scheduled forums include:
 - General Overview:
 - November 10: 6:00-7:30 PM - Register [HERE](#).
 - In-Depth Policy Reviews:
 - November 13: 10:00-11:30 AM ☐ register [HERE](#).
 - November 17: 6:00-7:30 PM ☐ register [HERE](#).
- Upcoming forums not yet scheduled:
 - Regular Rulemaking, In-depth Overview and Feedback



Where Can I Find More Information About Today's Topics?

- This presentation and recording will be posted to the AHCCCS website at: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/AlreadyCovered/MemberResources/>

AHCCCS Member Resources

Additional information for AHCCCS members can be found on this page.

ALTCS Policy Updates - updated October 16, 2025



AHCCCS Eligibility Documents

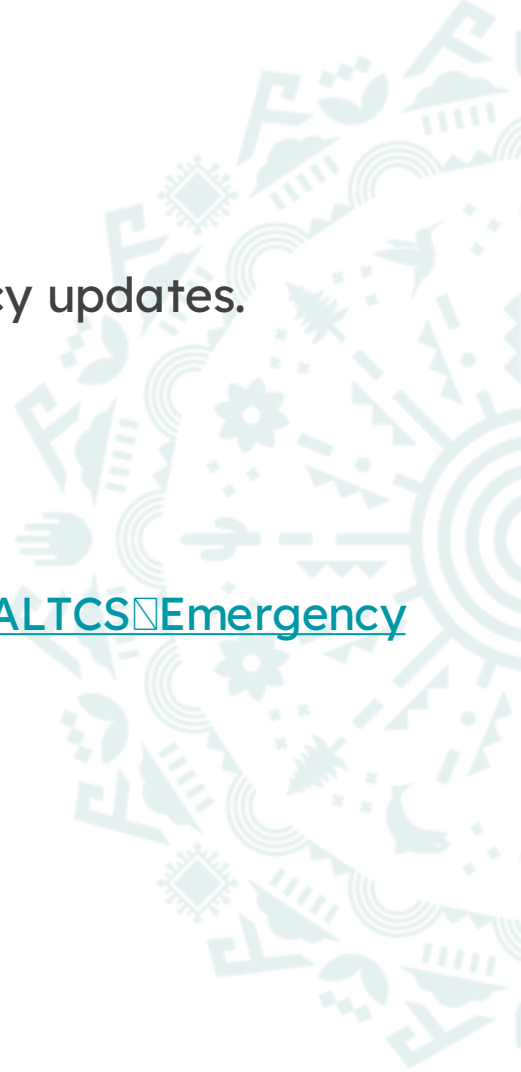


ALTCS-EPD Member Transition



ALTCS Policy FAQs

- AHCCCS has posted FAQs about the pause and policy updates.
 - These will be updated regularly.
- You can find the FAQs at:
 - <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/Downloads/ALTCS-EmergencyRule-PolicyforMinorChildrenFAQ.pdf>





Review of Chat Messages

Follow & Support AHCCCS on Social Media

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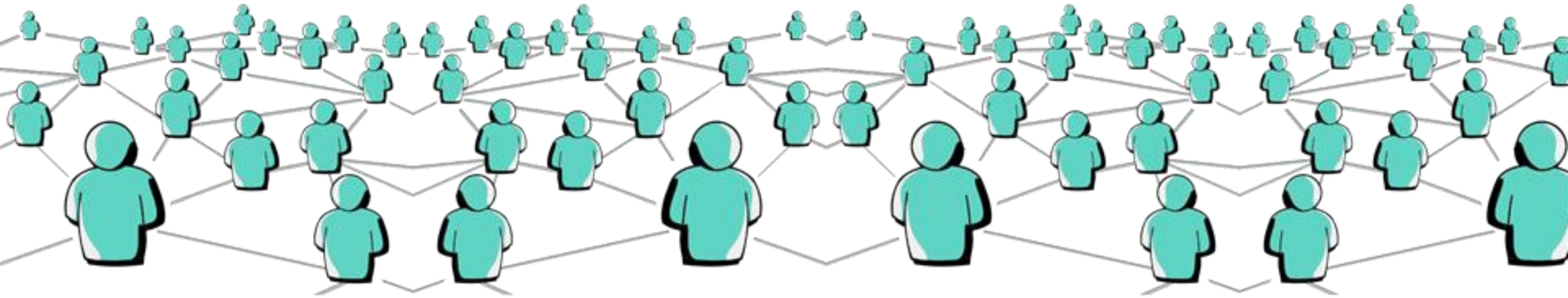
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[AHCCCSgov](https://www.youtube.com/AHCCCSgov)



Learn about AHCCCS' Medicaid Program on YouTube!



Watch our Playlist:

[Meet Arizona's Innovative Medicaid Program](#)

Other Resources - Quick Links

- [About AHCCCS](#)
- [Acronyms](#)
- [State Medicaid Advisory Committee \(SMAC\)](#)
- [Communicating the BAC and MAC](#)
- [Beneficiary Advisory Council \(BAC\)](#)
- [Tribal Relations](#)





Thank You