

Member Update - May 2026

AHCCCS HNT and ECR Rulemaking

On April 10 and April 14, AHCCCS hosted public forums on proposed rulemaking revisions. This rulemaking impacts the HCBS Needs Tool (HNT) and the Extraordinary Care Review (ECR) policy.

Timeline

- **April 2026:** Emergency Rule renewed; Regular Rule for another 180 days (through October 15, 2026) while the permanent rule is developed.
- **April 17 to May 19, 2026:** 30-day public comment period on the Regular Rule.
- **May 19, 2026:** AHCCCS hosted a public hearing on the Rule.
- **May to June 2026:** AHCCCS reviews public comments and refines Rule language.
- **June 2026 [dates TBD]:** AHCCCS to host public forums to review key policy decisions related to the HNT and ECR to support family awareness and ability to further plan.
- **July to August 2026:** Governor's Regulatory Review Council reviews and formally approves the Rule.
- **August 2026:** Policies finalized; health plans begin readiness work.
- **Early Fall 2026:** New HNT and ECR policies go live. Families should begin planning now in case service hours change.

Proposed HNT Changes

AHCCCS is proposing to amend the age limits for some activities in the HNT from those published last year. Those differences are listed on the [AHCCCS ALTCS web page, under Assessing Care Needs for ALTCS Members](#). The table on that page compares the October 2025 HNT with the proposed revised HNT.

AHCCCS Resources for Families

- [April 14, 2026 Forum Recording](#)
- [Understanding the HNT & ECR Rulemaking Process](#)
- [AHCCCS HNT/ECR FAQs](#)
- Email PPCG@azahcccs.gov with questions

AHCCCS ABA Policy Revisions

On April 15 and 16, AHCCCS hosted public forums on proposed changes to AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) Chapter 320-S and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services. A recording of the [member/family/stakeholder forum](#) is published on the AHCCCS website.

AHCCCS is updating the ABA policy to:

- Improve outcomes of ABA services by ensuring providers adhere to the evidence-based model of care
- Ensure unlicensed staff providing care to vulnerable members are qualified and appropriately supervised by Licensed Behavior Analysts
- Inform parent/caregiver expectations of quality ABA services to empower them to properly advocate for their children

No hard limitations on service hours are being proposed. All medically necessary services will be authorized. There are situations that will require additional documentation. These include:

- When requesting more than 25 hours of services per week. The requesting provider must explain why this service intensity is needed for the member's level of functional impairment.
- When requesting more than 15 hours of services per week for full-time students (who are in school 30-35 hours/week). The provider must explain why this time intensity is needed and how the member will have all of their needs met (including other services, time for free play, and rest) while participating in ABA.

The [proposed changes to AMPM 320-S](#) have been published on the AHCCCS website. Public comment is open through June 2, 2026. Feedback can be provided to AHCCCS using the [AHCCCS online submission form](#).

AHCCCS Resources for Families

- [Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) and Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Member Resource on Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) Services](#)
- [ABA Policy 320-S Updates for Families/Caregivers slide deck 4/16/2026](#)

Preventative Screenings

Preventative care can help you avoid chronic diseases and lower your risk of severe illness. Routine preventative care can help you stay well and catch problems early. Staying up to date on screening tests can help find health concerns early. Treatment works best when health concerns are found early. Your doctor may recommend screenings based on your health or age. Some common preventative screenings include:

Cancer screenings check your body for cancer before you have symptoms. [Learn more about CDC-recommended screening tests](#).

Breast cancer screenings can help find breast cancer early. Talk to your doctor about which breast cancer screening tests are right for you and when you should have them. [Learn more about screening for breast cancer](#).

The Pap test can find abnormal cells in the cervix that may turn into cancer. It can also find cervical cancer early. The HPV test looks for the virus (human papillomavirus) that can cause these cell changes. [Learn more about screening for cervical cancer](#).

Colorectal cancer almost always develops from precancerous polyps or abnormal growths in the colon or rectum. Screening tests can find precancerous polyps so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Screening tests can also find colorectal cancer early. [Learn more about screening for colorectal cancer](#).

Yearly lung cancer screening is recommended for people who are at high risk, including those 50 to 80 years old, and who either have a history of heavy smoking and smoke now, or have quit within the past 15 years. [Learn more about screening for lung cancer.](#)

See the [DDD Preventative Care Measures health fact sheet](#) for other ways to avoid chronic diseases and lower your risk of severe illness.

Public Town Hall Meetings

DDD hosts town hall meetings for members, families and providers. You can join via the Internet or by telephone. Attendees can also ask questions. **The next Town Hall will be Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** Visit <http://bit.ly/dddtownhall> for details to join.

Community Resources

DDD has information for local, state, and national groups that support members and their families. The DDD website has links to many of these groups that can assist with day-to-day tasks and other services that that DDD may not cover. [Visit the community resources section of the DDD website to learn more](#) or the 2-1-1 Directory at <https://211arizona.org>.

Arizona Warm Lines

Trained peer support specialists are available to provide help if you need it. These warm lines are available to all Arizonans ages 18 and older. Peer support specialists have lived experience with behavioral health challenges. They are trained to listen and support you.

Area Covered	Provider	Phone Number	Hours
All Arizona Counties	NAZCARE	1-888-404-5530	4:30pm to 10:30pm Monday to Thursday 3:00pm to 10:30pm Friday to Sunday
Central Arizona	Crisis Response Network	602-347-1100	24 hours
Southern Arizona - Pima County	Hope, Inc	520-770-9909	8am to 10pm Seven days per week, 365 days per year, holidays open 8am to 6pm (English) and 8am to 1pm (Spanish)
Southern Arizona - All Other Counties	Hope, Inc	1-844-733-9912	8am to 10pm Seven days per week, 365 days per year, holidays open 8am to 6pm (English) and 8am to 1pm (Spanish)

The Family Involvement Center offers a warm line for family members. They offer support to family members that deal with behavioral health challenges. This service is also available at no cost.

- Statewide phone number: 1-877-568-8468
- Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Crisis Services

If you, a family member, or a friend have a mental health emergency, seek help right away. Trained crisis staff are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help via phone, text, or chat. The crisis lines are at no cost, confidential and open to anyone who needs help. For medical, police and fire emergency situations, always call 911.

National 24-Hour Crisis Hotlines

Phone

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 988
- National Substance Use and Disorder Issues Referral and Treatment Hotline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

Text

- Text the word “HOME” to 741741
- Send a text to 988

Chat

- Chat link for 988: <https://988lifeline.org/chat>

For TTY Users

- Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988

For those who are Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and late-deafened, and their families

- Contact [DeafLEAD](#), which provides 24-hour videophone access to crisis interpreters and crisis intervention services
 - Voice Phone: (573) 445-5005
 - Video Phone: (573) 303-5604
 - Text: 988

Arizona Statewide Crisis Hotline

- Phone: 1-844-534-4673 (HOPE)
- Text: 4HOPE (44673)
- Chat: [Chat with a Crisis Specialist](#)

Suicide and Crisis Hotlines by County

- Apache Country: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Cochise County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Coconino County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-877-756-4090
- Gila County: Mercy Care, 1-800-631-1314
- Graham County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Greenlee County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- La Paz County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Navajo County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-877-756-4090
- Maricopa County: Mercy Care, 1-800-631-1314

- Mohave: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-877-756-4090
- Pima County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Pinal County: Mercy Care, 1-866-495-6735
- Santa Cruz County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Yavapai County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-877-756-4090
- Yuma County: Arizona Complete Health - Complete Care Plan, 1-866-495-6735
- Ak-Chin Indian Community: 1-800-259-3449
- Gila River Indian Community: 1-800-259-3449
- Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community: 480-850-9230
- Tohono O'odham Nation: 1-844-423-8759

Especially for Teens

- Teen Life Line phone or text: 602-248-TEEN (8336)

Especially for Veterans

- Veterans Crisis Line: 988 (press 1)
- Be Connected: 1-866-4AZ-VETS (429-8387)

Report Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse (FWA) are crimes. Report fraud, waste, and abuse right away. You will not get in trouble or lose services if you report any suspected fraud, waste, or abuse.

You can report FWA to DDD by:

- Calling DDD at 1-877-822-5799
- Sending an email to dddfwa@azdes.gov
- Sending a letter to DES/DDD, Attn: Corporate Compliance Unit, 1789 W Jefferson St., Mail Drop 2HA1, Phoenix, AZ 85007
- Completing this [online form](#).

You can also report FWA to AHCCCS

- AHCCCS online reporting form for FWA: <https://www.azahcccs.gov/Fraud/ReportFraud/onlineform.aspx>
- Provider Fraud
 - In Arizona: 602-417-4045
 - Outside Arizona: 1-888-ITS-NOT-OK (1-888-487-6686)
- Report Member Fraud:
 - In Arizona: 602-417-4193
 - Outside Arizona: 1-888-ITS-NOT-OK (1-888-487-6686)
- If you have questions about AHCCCS fraud, abuse of the program, or abuse of a member, email the AHCCCS Office of Inspector General (OIG) at AHCCCSFraud@azahcccs.gov.

Stay Up to Date

Previous versions of OIFA newsletters are available to view on DDD's website. Visit the [Member Services](#) page and click on the "Member Newsletters" section.

DDD is Here to Help

Please contact your Support Coordinator or the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1 (TTY/TDD 711) if you have questions.

Language help is available at no cost to you. Call the DDD Customer Service Center at 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, to ask for this material in other formats.

La ayuda en otros idiomas está disponible sin costo alguno para usted. Llame al Centro de atención al cliente de la DDD al 1-844-770-9500 ext. 1, TTY/TDD 711, para solicitar este material en otros formatos.