



University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Chief Population Health Officer

Leadership Profile

August 2026

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WittKieffer

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The Opportunity

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) seeks an innovative and results-oriented Chief Population Health Officer (CPHO) to lead the organization's population health strategy and accelerate the transition from volume-based care to value-based care across their network. As the state's only academic health system, UAMS is uniquely positioned to improve the health of rural and underserved communities while advancing clinical excellence, education, research, and innovation.

Reporting directly to the UAMS Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UAMS Health, the CPHO serves as the senior executive responsible for the strategic, operational, and financial performance of UAMS's population health enterprise. This includes oversight of the Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO), care management programs, population health analytics, physician engagement initiatives, and risk-based reimbursement arrangements. This role will be instrumental in the strategic direction for development of a Clinically Integrated Network (CIN).

The CPHO will partner closely with physician leaders, hospital and clinic executives, faculty, community providers, health plans, and external stakeholders to improve quality outcomes, enhance patient experience, reduce total cost of care, and strengthen UAMS's position as a statewide leader in value-based care. UAMS has agreements with the following health plans: Humana, UnitedHealthcare, Aetna, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, HealthSpring, Wellcare, and Devoted Health.

This executive will be responsible for identifying new opportunities for growth, expanding strategic partnerships, and ensuring that population health initiatives align with UAMS's mission to improve the health and health care of all Arkansans.

The ideal candidate will bring a demonstrated record of success leading population health transformation in a complex healthcare environment and will possess deep expertise in accountable care, clinical integration, physician alignment, healthcare analytics, care management, and risk-based contracting.

Key Responsibilities and Leadership Priorities

The next Chief Population Health Officer of UAMS is expected to lead with integrity and humility, and to articulate and execute a bold vision while embracing, embodying, and championing UAMS's mission and core values. The candidate will be expected to actively listen to and develop relationships with UAMS's many constituents, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, regional health providers, state government leaders, and diverse community members who engage with UAMS.

The ideal candidate will possess the following professional qualifications and personal characteristics:

Population Health and Value-Based Care Leadership

- A proven executive leader with significant experience developing and executing population health and value-based care strategies in an academic health system, integrated delivery network, health plan, clinically integrated network, accountable care organization, healthcare services company, or comparable environment. Demonstrated success improving quality outcomes, reducing utilization, enhancing patient experience, and achieving financial performance under risk-bearing arrangements.

Enterprise Population Health Strategy

- Lead the development and execution of a comprehensive population health strategy that aligns with UAMS's mission as Arkansas's academic health system and addresses the unique healthcare needs of seniors in rural communities throughout the state.
- Serve as UAMS's executive representative in population health partnerships, including its Medicare ACO collaboration with Baptist Health, and advise executive leadership and governing boards on population health performance, strategy, and emerging market opportunities.

Value-Based Care Performance

- Direct all strategic, operational, and finance activities associated with ACO and population health programs--Medicare Advantage and MSSP.
- Accountable for achieving performance targets related to quality, utilization, patient outcomes, provider engagement, and financial performance under shared savings and risk-based reimbursement models.
- Establish physician performance frameworks that create accountability and align financial incentives across employed and affiliated providers, as well as develop risk capture models that demonstrate true patient risk stratification.
- Develop innovative physician partnerships, network relationships, and care delivery structures that support growth while improving value and affordability.

Population Health Operations and Transformation

- Create consistent care management standards and workflows across the health system while ensuring effective coordination among employed physicians, faculty providers, independent practitioners, and community-based organizations.
- In partnership with the pharmacy, develop evidence-based prescription drug structures that reduce overall cost.

Analytics, Performance Improvement, and Innovation

- Oversee population health risk analytics, reporting, and business intelligence capabilities to support data-driven decision making across the network. Drive initiatives focused on risk adjustment, coding accuracy, revenue optimization, and performance improvement across all provider sites involved in value-based contracts.
- Utilize predictive analytics, risk stratification, and performance measurement tools to identify opportunities for improved quality, reduced utilization, enhanced patient outcomes, and lower total cost of care.
- Ensure alignment between population health analytics and the broader UAMS enterprise data and digital strategy, including optimization of Epic and population health technology platforms.

Financial Stewardship and Growth

- Partner with finance, managed care, and outside actuarial resources to evaluate population health investments, support contract negotiations, and manage financial performance under risk-bearing Medicare Advantage arrangements.
- Lead the development of strategic partnerships and new business opportunities that diversify revenue and expand UAMS's value-based care footprint.
- Identify alternative tax ID carve-out opportunities from the general risk pool.
- Build a clinically integrated, financially sustainable, and compliant population health network that delivers high-quality, coordinated care for Medicare Advantage members, drives value-based performance, and creates meaningful benefits for both patients and providers.

Physician Engagement

- Serve as the executive leader responsible for creating physician alignment across UAMS, affiliated hospitals, community providers, and rural practice partners to advance population health and value-based care objectives.
- Develop strong partnerships with primary care physicians, specialists, and community providers, and health plan partners to advance population health goals.
- Develop a culture of physician engagement, accountability, and shared ownership of clinical, quality, utilization, and financial outcomes across the ACO and matrixed academic health system while galvanizing the development of a CIN.
- Maintain strong relationships with employed and independent physicians while ensuring alignment around quality, access, rural health priorities, and value-based care objectives and metrics.

Experience and Qualifications

Ideally, candidates may come from leadership roles within academic health systems, integrated delivery networks, clinically integrated networks, accountable care organizations, provider-sponsored health plans, population health organizations, healthcare services companies, or consulting firms focused on value-based care transformation.

Credentials (Required)

- Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, Health Policy, Finance, or a related field.
- Minimum of 10 years of progressive executive leadership experience in population health, value-based care, healthcare operations, managed care contracting and negotiating, clinical integration, or accountable care organizations.
- Demonstrated success leading population health initiatives, risk-based reimbursement programs, and provider performance improvement efforts.
- Experience managing complex provider networks, physician relationships, and strategic partnerships.

Credentials (Preferred)

- Experience within an academic medical center, academic health system, integrated delivery network, health plan, or provider-sponsored health plan.
- Direct leadership experience with a Clinical Integrated Network and Medicare Shared Savings Program ACO.
- Experience building population health infrastructure, developing new business models, and negotiating shared-risk or full-risk arrangements.
- Expertise in rural health delivery models, health equity initiatives, care management, healthcare analytics, and performance improvement.
- Familiarity with Epic and population health technology platforms.
- Ability to influence across a complex academic health system while creating alignment among diverse stakeholders.
- Commitment to advancing health equity and improving access to care throughout Arkansas.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

UAMS was founded in 1879 by eight physicians. Today, UAMS is Arkansas' only health sciences university and the state's only academic health center, part of a statewide network of postsecondary education institutions within the University of Arkansas System, governed by a 10-member Board of Trustees.

UAMS is the state's leading tertiary academic health center. UAMS includes five colleges and a graduate school at its main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest Arkansas regional campus in Fayetteville; a statewide network including nine regional campuses; and eight Institutes of excellence. With its intersection of education, research, and clinical programs, UAMS offers a unique capacity to lead health care improvement in Arkansas.

Established in 2007, the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus serves more than 300 students and more than 200 residents and fellows. The campus is home to Arkansas's first three-year medical degree program, designed to accelerate the preparation of primary care physicians and address the region's physician workforce needs.

The Little Rock campus features a 559-bed hospital, including 40 psychiatric beds, and the state's only adult Level 1 Trauma Center. This campus is also home to The Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital, an \$85 million, 158,000-square-foot facility complete with 24 private rooms for overnight observation and inpatient stays, and the Radiation Oncology Center, which houses the state's first and only Proton Center, a collaboration between UAMS, Arkansas Children's, Baptist Health, and Proton International.

As the state's largest public employer, UAMS has a workforce of more than 12,000 people, including over 1,200 physicians who provide care at locations across the state.

In clinical care, UAMS is recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top hospitals in Arkansas and has been singled out multiple times for expertise in colon and lung cancer surgery, heart failure, hip and knee replacement, stroke, leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. UAMS received an "A" hospital safety grade from the Leapfrog Group in the spring of 2024 based on more than 30 safety and quality related measures.

UAMS is home to Arkansas's only center for kidney, pancreas, and liver transplants, and its survival rates for these procedures exceed the national average. Stroke care is another area in which UAMS excels. UAMS was the first hospital in Arkansas to be certified as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, a designation given to hospitals that show the ability to receive and treat the most complex stroke cases. UAMS has also been recognized by the American Heart Association for its exceptional care for stroke patients.

UAMS is also the only hospital in Arkansas, one of 15 nationwide, designated as a da Vinci Observation Epicenter in robotic surgery. Intuitive Surgical, the company that makes the da Vinci Surgical System, established the epicenters to provide surgeons new to the technology with an opportunity to observe and consult with skilled practitioners. UAMS is a national leader in robotic surgery, with 16 certified robotic surgeons across nine specialties.

UAMS has a unique capacity for translational research — speeding the rate at which research can inform clinical care and health improvement. The university's Translational Research Institute houses the university's CTSA and leads by fostering community partnerships to help guide the development of important research projects.

The Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute is the only academic cancer treatment and research facility in Arkansas. The Cancer Institute fosters collaboration among physicians, scientists, and other health care professionals and is actively pursuing National Cancer Institute designation to expand access to innovative clinical trials and cancer research.

A nationally recognized component of the Cancer Institute, the UAMS Myeloma Center has treated nearly 17,000 patients from around the world and is an international leader in stem cell transplantation and treatment for multiple myeloma.

UAMS is also a leader in brain and spine health. The Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute is the first facility in Arkansas to focus on advancing research, education, and clinical care for disorders of the brain, spine, and nervous system.

UAMS provides the best care for patients of all ages, and the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging strives to meet the needs of older Arkansans. Its clinical program provides superb patient care while serving as a laboratory for education and research.

The Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute provides treatment for a variety of ocular conditions and illnesses. The Eye Institute's ophthalmology residency program, the only one in the state, trains doctors and technicians to become skilled ophthalmic practitioners.

At the Psychiatric Research Institute, UAMS works to improve the lives of Arkansans through the treatment and study of mental illness. The staff has the experience to treat patients of all ages, no matter their challenges.

UAMS has also embraced digital health services as it pursues its goal of eliminating health disparities in Arkansas and beyond. The Institute for Digital Health & Innovation connects 63 rural hospitals through more than 30 digital health programs, providing specialty care access throughout Arkansas. Its high-risk pregnancy program delivers remote consultations at 28 sites statewide.

UAMS's newest institute and its first to be located in Northwest Arkansas, the Institute for Community Health Innovation, is a leader in community-based health research and programs designed to create a better state of health for all.

With five colleges — the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, College of Health Professions and the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health — and the Graduate School, UAMS is committed to educating the health care professionals and scientists of tomorrow.

UAMS continues to expand its research programs. In 2024, investigators secured more than \$233 million in research funding and published more than 3,600 research articles. UAMS ranks among the top 14% of U.S. institutions receiving federal research grant funding.

UAMS is the official Orthopedics and Sports Medicine provider for the University of Arkansas Razorback Athletics, offering comprehensive care to hundreds of student-athletes and daily medical coverage for 19 sports programs. UAMS and Arkansas Children's also provide orthopedics and sports medicine care to athletes at many high schools, colleges, and universities throughout the state.

Services provided by UAMS extend well beyond the Little Rock campus. UAMS founded nine regional campuses to help address the shortage and uneven distribution of primary care physicians in Arkansas. These centers offer care to underserved areas of the state, provide training for future medical professionals, operate a network of pipeline programs to encourage high school students to pursue health careers, generate more than 600 jobs statewide, and recorded more than 135,000 outpatient visits through their Family Medical Centers in FY2024. With campuses in Batesville, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Helena-West Helena, Jonesboro, Magnolia, Pine Bluff, and Texarkana, UAMS is committed to improving health care throughout Arkansas.

UAMS Mission

To improve the health and health care of Arkansans

UAMS Mission Statement

The mission of UAMS is to improve the health, health care, and well-being of Arkansans and others in the region, nation, and the world by:

- Educating current and future health professionals and the public
- Providing high-quality, innovative, patient- and-family-centric health care and specialty expertise not routinely available in community settings
- Advancing knowledge in areas of human health and disease, and translating and accelerating discoveries into health improvements

Core Values

Integrity, Respect, Teamwork, Creativity, Excellence, Safety

ASPIRE 2033

By 2033, UAMS will redefine what a statewide academic health system can be, becoming nationally distinguished and the driving force behind a healthier Arkansas. The strategy is organized around six pillars: Access & Integration; Service Excellence; Performance & Growth; Innovation & Discovery; Readiness & Workforce; and Education & Academic Leadership.

For additional information on UAMS, click on the following links: [Fast Facts | UAMS](#) and [Welcome to UAMS, President Silveria | UAMS](#)

The University of Arkansas System

Since its inception, the University of Arkansas (UA) System has developed a tradition of excellence that includes the state's 1871 flagship, land-grant research university; Arkansas's premier institution for medical education, treatment and research; a major metropolitan university; an 1890 land-grant university; two regional universities serving southern and western Arkansas; eight community colleges; two schools of law; a presidential school; a residential math and science high school; a 100 percent-online university and divisions of agriculture, archeology and criminal justice. The individual entities of the UA System maintain cooperative strength and diverse offerings that exhibit unmatched economic and social impact on the state.

The UA System provides communities in Arkansas with access to academic and professional opportunities, develops intellectual growth and cultural awareness in its students, and provides knowledge and research skills to an ever-changing society. The system enrolls more than 70,000 students, employs over 28,000 and has a total budget of more than \$4 billion. An intrinsic part of the texture and fabric of Arkansas, the UA System is a driving force in the state's economic, educational, and cultural advancement.

[View more information regarding the impact of the UA System](#)

For additional information on the UA System, click on the following link: [University of Arkansas System](#)

Living in Little Rock, Arkansas

Where the Ouachita Mountains meet the Delta, you'll find the Arkansas River and Little Rock, the capital city of The Natural State. With a population of approximately 778,000, Little Rock is large enough to be culturally diverse and small enough to encourage a feeling of community among its citizens. Little Rock is full of modern innovation tempered by rich history.

Cost of living in Little Rock in 2026, according to Numbeo.com, an independent cost-of-living database:

- Four-person family monthly costs: **\$3,801** without rent
- A single person's monthly costs: **\$1,064** without rent
- Cost-of-living index in Little Rock is **55.80%** lower than in New York
- Cost of living ranks **296th** out of **586** cities in the world
- Little Rock has a cost-of-living index of **60.31**

Little Rock offers a cost of living well below the national average, with housing, transportation, and everyday expenses remaining affordable compared with many major U.S. metropolitan areas. Residents benefit from short commute times, a relatively affordable cost of living, extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, and access to a growing arts and cultural scene

With arts, culture, and education centers like the Little Rock Zoo, the Museum of Discovery, the Clinton Presidential Library, the Robinson Center, and the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock is a great place to educate and entertain family and guests.

Sports fans will enjoy watching baseball games at Dickey-Stephens Park in North Little Rock, home of the minor league baseball team, the Arkansas Travelers. The Little Rock/North Little Rock area has two great venues, Simmons Bank Arena and First Security Amphitheater, which offer music lovers a chance to see their favorite performers in concert.

The city possesses breathtaking natural beauty thanks to its mountains, river valleys, and miles of untouched woods. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy abundant opportunities for hiking, biking, sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, camping, and more.

Annual events like the Main Street Food Truck Festival, International Greek Food Festival, Central Arkansas Pride, Mosaic Templars' Juneteenth, the Irish Cultural Society of Arkansas' St. Patrick's Day Parade, the World Cheese Dip Championship, and Africa Day Festival highlight the city's cultural diversity. Man-made wonders such as the Big Dam Bridge and the Arkansas River Trail offer an ideal setting for a variety of outdoor activities, which help support active lifestyles.

Little Rock's more than 60 city parks provide ample access to outdoor recreation and relaxation options.

Little Rock offers something for every stage of life. Whether exploring the city's museums and cultural attractions, enjoying outdoor recreation along the Arkansas River, or visiting family-friendly destinations such as the Little Rock Zoo and Museum of Discovery, residents and visitors alike can find countless opportunities for entertainment, learning, and adventure.

The Little Rock Zoo is the state's only facility accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and home to more than 500 animals spread across a 33-acre garden. From alligators and anteaters to penguins, rhinos, tigers,

and zebras, you can see and learn about these incredible species and how the zoo works toward their conservation and continued survival.

Even in the heart of the capital city, you're never far from outdoor fun. The city offers several public golf courses, including Rebsamen Golf Course located on the Arkansas River, as well as a number of private club options for avid golfers. The First Tee of Central Arkansas is a walking-only, public golf course with over 100-acres, featuring 2 nine-hole courses and one of the area's best practice facilities. Rock Town River Outfitters offers kayak and stand-up paddleboard rentals and tours of the Arkansas River in addition to a variety of bikes to explore the Arkansas River Trail.

Another of Little Rock's most popular family attractions is the Museum of Discovery (MOD), the state's premier science and educational center. Named a Top 10 science museum by MENSA, the MOD hosts seasonal exhibits, STEM-themed festivals for the whole family, and a monthly Science After Dark event for those 21 and older.

One of the museum's most popular educational programs is geared toward introducing girls between the ages of 12-16 to STEM careers. They also offer themed summer camps to help kids bridge the gap between brands like LEGO, Minecraft, Pokémon, and STEM.

Adventurous families should take note; your next big thrill awaits you here. There's something for everyone, from free climbing, backpacking, and spelunking to white-water rafting, mountain biking, and ziplining. The best part is that because of the mild climate, you can spend way more time outdoors seeking your thrill and enjoying the state's natural beauty.

About Arkansas

Known as the Natural State, Arkansas hosts an abundance of scenic vistas from lakes and rivers to the breathtaking Ozark and Ouachita Mountains and is home to endless outdoor adventures. A temperate climate allows you to enjoy all four seasons in the great Arkansas outdoors. There is more to discover than just natural wonders around the state. Each region has unique attractions that draw increasing crowds from across the nation.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park is minutes west of downtown Little Rock, and the mountain's summit provides hikers with a bird's-eye view of the city. The mountain's summit provides panoramic views of the Arkansas River Valley and surrounding natural landscapes.

The park consists of various nature trails around the base, exceptional mountain bike trails for every level of rider, and several canoe and kayak areas.

Heading east towards Tennessee is the Arkansas Delta. This region of the state boasts some of the South's best artists, BBQ, and Blues. You can visit sites dedicated to Johnny Cash and Ernest Hemingway, both of whom had a lasting connection to the region.

Arkansas is situated at a geographic and cultural crossroads, with each region of the state incorporating characteristics of the neighboring areas. Southwest Arkansas is known for its incredible hot springs and spas, lakes, a public diamond mine, and the birthplace of America's 42nd President, Bill Clinton.

A trip to Hot Springs is a must, and if the ponies are running at Oaklawn, stop in for a corned-beef sandwich. It's a rite of passage.

Petit Jean Mountain is among the most popular recreation areas in central Arkansas. The spectacular 95-foot Cedar Falls, Seven Hollows, and distinctive features such as Bear Cave, the Grotto, and Natural Bridge are must-sees for all.

Located about two hours northwest of Little Rock, the Buffalo National River Park, America's First National River, flows freely for 135 miles. Untamed and untouched, the Buffalo remains one of the few undammed rivers remaining in the lower 48 states. The park's 94,293 acres average more than 1.39 million visitors a year across the 100 miles of hiking trails and designated trails for horseback riding. The 151 miles of scenic river are perfect for kayaking or canoeing.

Northwest Arkansas is home to world-class mountain biking, hiking, and backpacking. Visit the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, showcasing world-class art collections, beautiful Eureka Springs with its gorgeous historical buildings and wonderful shopping, and the state's wine-making region along the Ozark Wine Trail.

The Arkansas River Trail is a testament to the state's love of outdoor recreation, conservation, wellness, and the diverse geographies of Central Arkansas, connecting 38 parks, six museums, and 5,000+ acres of federal, state and local parkland.

Application and Nomination Process

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile. Review of applications has begun and will continue until the position is filled.

Applications, nominations and inquiries should be addressed to Taeler Kaufmann at tkaufmann@wittkiewer.com

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is an equal opportunity institution. The University does not discriminate in its education programs or activities (including in admission and employment) on the basis of any category or status protected by law, including age, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, protected veteran status, military service, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, or pregnancy.

All application information is subject to public disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

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