

(2) The purpose of a comparable performance measurement system established under this subsection is to assist health maintenance organization benefit plans to improve the quality of care provided by establishing a common set of performance measurements and disseminating the findings of the performance measurements to health maintenance organizations and interested parties.

(3) The system, where appropriate, shall:

(I) [solicit] SOLICIT performance information from enrollees of health maintenance organizations; AND

(II) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2007, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, INCORPORATE RACIAL AND ETHNIC VARIATIONS.

(4) (i) The Commission shall adopt regulations to establish the system of evaluation provided under this subsection.

(ii) Before adopting regulations to implement an evaluation system under this subsection, the Commission shall consider any recommendations of the quality of care subcommittee of the Group Health Association of America and the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

(5) The Commission may contract with a private, nonprofit entity to implement the system required under this subsection provided that the entity is not an insurer.

(6) The annual evaluation summary required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:

(i) Include a summary of the Drug Formulary Accreditation Standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); [and]

(ii) Indicate whether the formulary development process of each health maintenance organization evaluated complies with the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) accreditation standards[.]; AND

(III) INCLUDE TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE INFORMATION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC VARIATIONS.

(d) (1) The Commission, in consultation with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Aging, shall:

(i) On or before July 1, 2001, develop and implement a system to comparatively evaluate the quality of care and performance of nursing facilities on an objective basis; and

(ii) Annually publish the summary findings of the evaluation.

(2) (i) The purpose of the comparative evaluation system established under this subsection is to improve the quality of care provided by nursing facilities by establishing a common set of performance measures and disseminating the findings of the comparative evaluation to nursing facilities, consumers, and other interested parties.