

(ii) In developing the comparative evaluation system, the Commission shall consider the health status of the population served.

(3) (I) The system, as appropriate, shall solicit performance information from consumers and their families.

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

(4) The Commission may adopt regulations to establish the comparative evaluation system provided under this subsection.

(e) (1) The Commission may:

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

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

(2) (i) The purpose of a comparable performance measurement system established under this subsection is to improve the quality of care provided by hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities by establishing a common set of performance measurements and disseminating the findings of the performance measurements to hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities, consumers, and interested parties.

(ii) In developing the performance measurement system, the Commission shall consider the geographic location, urban or rural orientation, and teaching or nonteaching status of the hospital and the ambulatory surgical facilities, and the health status of the population served.

(3) (I) The system, where appropriate, shall solicit performance information from consumers.

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

(4) (i) The Commission may 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:

1. Consider the performance measurements of appropriate accreditation organizations, State licensure regulations, Medicare certification regulations, the quality indicator project of the Association of Maryland Hospitals and Health Systems, and any other relevant performance measurements;

2. Evaluate the desirability and feasibility of developing a consumer clearinghouse on health care information using existing available data; and