

3. a health maintenance organization;
4. a dental plan organization; or
5. any other person that provides health benefit plans subject to regulation by the State.

(ii) "Carrier" includes an entity that arranges a provider panel for a carrier.

(3) "Contract" means the implied or express agreement between a health care provider and carrier, including the rights, obligations, and fee schedule for the provision of health care services.

(4) "Health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article to provide health care services.

(b) (1) ~~(A) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,~~ A carrier may not in any manner assign, transfer, or subcontract a health care provider's contract, wholly or partly, to:

~~1. an insurer that offers personal injury protection coverage under § 19-505 of this article;~~

~~2. AN INSURER THAT OFFERS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE UNDER TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; OR~~

~~3. THE INJURED WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND.~~

~~(H) [without first informing the health care provider and obtaining] A CARRIER MAY ONLY ASSIGN, TRANSFER, OR SUBCONTRACT A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S CONTRACT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IF THE CARRIER FIRST INFORMS THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND OBTAINS the health care provider's express written consent.~~

(2) A carrier may not terminate, limit, or otherwise impair the contract or employment of a health care provider with the carrier on the basis that the health care provider refused to agree to an assignment, transfer, or subcontract of all or part of the health care provider's contract to:

~~(I) an insurer that offers personal injury protection coverage under § 19-505 of this article;~~

~~(II) AN INSURER THAT OFFERS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE UNDER TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; OR~~

~~(III) THE INJURED WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND.~~

(C) (1) A CARRIER THAT USES A PROVIDER PANEL FOR HEALTH CARE SERVICES MAY NOT REQUIRE A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AS A CONDITION OF