

(B) "UTILIZATION REVIEW" MEANS A SYSTEM FOR REVIEWING THE APPROPRIATE AND EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF HOSPITAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES GIVEN OR PROPOSED TO BE GIVEN TO A PATIENT OR GROUP OF PATIENTS.

(C) "PRIVATE REVIEW AGENT" MEANS A NONHOSPITAL-AFFILIATED PERSON OR ENTITY PERFORMING UTILIZATION REVIEW THAT IS EITHER AFFILIATED WITH, UNDER CONTRACT WITH, OR ACTING ON BEHALF OF: A BUSINESS---ENTITY,--HEALTH--MAINTENANCE--ORGANIZATION,--PREFERRED PROVIDER-ORGANIZATION,--HEALTH-INSURER,--NONPROFIT--HEALTH--SERVICE PLAN,--HEALTH-INSURANCE-SERVICE-ORGANIZATION-OR-OTHER-THIRD-PARTY PAYOR-

(I) A MARYLAND BUSINESS ENTITY; OR

(II) A THIRD PARTY THAT PROVIDES OR ADMINISTERS HOSPITAL BENEFITS TO CITIZENS OF THIS STATE, INCLUDING:

1. A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION ISSUED A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE; OR

2. A HEALTH INSURER, NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN, HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICE ORGANIZATION, OR PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZED TO OFFER HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES OR CONTRACTS IN THIS STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 48A OF THE CODE.

(D) "UTILIZATION REVIEW PLAN" MEANS A DESCRIPTION OF THE STANDARDS GOVERNING UTILIZATION REVIEW ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY A PRIVATE REVIEW AGENT.

(E) "SECRETARY" MEANS THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

(F) "COMMISSIONER" MEANS THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER.

(G) "CERTIFICATE" MEANS A CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION GRANTED BY THE SECRETARY TO A PRIVATE REVIEW AGENT.

19-1302.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO:

(1) PROMOTE THE DELIVERY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN A COST EFFECTIVE MANNER;

(2) FOSTER GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN PAYORS AND PROVIDERS CONDUCTING UTILIZATION REVIEW ACTIVITIES;

(3) PROTECT PATIENTS, BUSINESS, AND PROVIDERS BY ENSURING THAT PRIVATE REVIEW AGENTS ARE QUALIFIED TO PERFORM