

15.--The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall study the feasibility and desirability of obtaining waivers from federal requirements necessary to implement additional managed care programs. The results of this study shall be submitted on or before September 17, 1989.

16.--The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall study the feasibility and desirability of obtaining a waiver from the federal freedom of choice requirements. The results of this study shall be submitted on or before September 17, 1989.

17.--The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall contract with an outside consultant to study possible alternatives for modifying the structure of the Health Resources Planning Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission to improve the State's ability to control health care costs. The results of the consultant's study shall be submitted on or before July 17, 1990.

18.--The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the Health Services Cost Review Commission, shall study the feasibility and desirability of:

A.--Paying hospital outpatient departments at rates established by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for physician office or clinic visits under the Program;

B.--Lowering the cost of hospital-based ancillary services;

C.--Having the Program designate certain providers for the provisions of specialty services, exchanging volume for a preferential rate, and

D.--Establishing performance criteria for hospitals to obtain approval to provide discounts to third-party payors.

The results of this study shall be submitted on or before July 17, 1990.

19.--The Maryland Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, in conjunction with the Physician Quality Assurance Board and local medical societies, shall study and determine how to provide incentives to encourage physicians currently not treating Program recipients to participate in the Program. The results of this study shall be submitted on or before September 17, 1989.

20.--The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the Maryland Medical and Chirurgical Faculty and local medical schools, shall develop incentives, such as scholarships, to increase the supply of physicians serving underserved areas of the State as part of this effort. A review of the medical school's clinical requirements shall be conducted.