

2. A preferred provider organization;
3. An independent practice association; or
4. A community health center that is a nonprofit, freestanding ambulatory health care provider governed by a voluntary board of directors and that provides primary health care services to the medically indigent.

(3) "Medical review committee" means a committee or board that:

- (i) Is within one of the categories described in subsection (b) of this section; and
- (ii) Performs any of the functions listed in subsection (c) of this section.

(4) (i) "Provider of health care" means any person who is licensed by law to provide health care to individuals.

(ii) "Provider of health care" does not include any nursing institution that is conducted by and for those who rely on treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination.

(5) "The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems" means the State agency described in § 13-1D-03 of the Education Article.

(b) For purposes of this section, a medical review committee is:

(1) A regulatory board or agency established by State or federal law to license, certify, or discipline any provider of health care;

(2) A committee of the Faculty or any of its component societies or a committee of any other professional society or association composed of providers of health care;

(3) A committee appointed by or established in a local health department for review purposes;

(4) A committee appointed by or established in the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems;

(5) A committee of the medical staff or other committee, including any risk management, credentialing, or utilization review committee established in accordance with § 19-319 of the Health - General Article, of a hospital, related institution, or alternative health care system, if the governing board of the hospital, related institution, or alternative health care system forms and approves the committee or approves the written bylaws under which the committee operates;

(6) Any person, including a professional standard review organization, who contracts with an agency of this State or of the federal government to perform any of the functions listed in subsection (c) of this section;