

~~(3) A third party administrator as defined in Article 48A, § 490R of the Code.~~

~~(4) "SOFT-TISSUE INJURY" MEANS AN INJURY, SUCH AS A SPRAIN OR STRAIN, TO TISSUE, OTHER THAN BONE OR CARTILAGE, WHICH IS PART OF THE SUPPORTING STRUCTURES OF THE MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM.~~

~~19-1502.~~

~~(a) There is a Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission.~~

~~(b) The Commission is an independent Commission that functions in the Department.~~

~~(c) The purpose of the Commission is to:~~

~~(1) Develop health care cost containment strategies to help provide access to appropriate quality health care services for all Marylanders, after consulting with the Health Resources Planning Commission and the Health Services Cost Review Commission;~~

~~(2) Facilitate the public disclosure of medical claims data for the development of public policy;~~

~~(3) Establish and develop a medical care data base on health care services rendered by health care practitioners;~~

~~(4) Encourage the development of clinical resource management systems to permit the comparison of costs between various treatment settings and the availability of information to consumers, providers, and purchasers of health care services;~~

~~(5) Develop a uniform set of effective benefits to be included in the comprehensive standard health benefit plan to apply under Subtitle 55 of Article 48A of the Code;~~

~~(6) Analyze the medical care data base and provide, in aggregate form, an annual report on the variations in costs associated with health care practitioners;~~

~~(7) Ensure utilization of the medical care data base as a primary means to compile data and information and annually report on trends and variances regarding fees for service, cost of care, regional and national comparisons, and indications of malpractice situations;~~

~~(8) Develop a payment system for health care services, INCLUDING A PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR THE HEALTH CARE SERVICES RELATING TO THE TREATMENT OF SOFT TISSUE INJURIES AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 48A, § 541A OF THE CODE;~~

~~(9) Establish standards for the operation and licensing of medical care electronic claims clearinghouses in Maryland;~~

~~(10) Foster the development of practice parameters; [and]~~