

~~PERSON WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, UNLESS THE SECRETARY, AFTER GIVING NOTICE AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING TO THE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION, DETERMINES THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC WOULD BE SERVED BY THE DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS IN THE MANNER THAT THE SECRETARY DETERMINES IS APPROPRIATE.~~

~~(V) THE SECRETARY MAY INSPECT ANY FACILITY OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING A COMPLAINT OR TO FOLLOW UP ON A PROBLEM IDENTIFIED IN AN ACCREDITATION REPORT.~~

(5) (I) THE SECRETARY MAY ACCEPT ALL OR PART OF A REPORT OF AN APPROVED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION AS MEETING THE EXTERNAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A REPORT OF AN APPROVED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION USED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS MEETING THE EXTERNAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC ON REQUEST.

(III) THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT DISCLOSE AND SHALL TREAT AS CONFIDENTIAL ALL CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN A REPORT OF AN APPROVED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 10-617(D) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(IV) THE DEPARTMENT MAY INSPECT A FACILITY OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION TO:

1. DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH ANY QUALITY REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;

2. FOLLOW UP ON A SERIOUS PROBLEM IDENTIFIED BY AN APPROVED ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION; OR

3. INVESTIGATE A COMPLAINT.

Article – Health Occupations

14-501.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) “Alternative health care system” means a system of health care delivery other than a hospital or related institution.

(ii) “Alternative health care system” includes:

1. A health maintenance organization;
2. A preferred provider organization;
3. An independent practice association; or