

CHAPTER 161

(Senate Bill 332)

AN ACT concerning

Health Maintenance Organizations - Referrals to Continuing Care Facilities

FOR the purpose of requiring a primary care physician under certain circumstances to refer a subscriber or an enrollee of a skilled nursing unit at a health maintenance organization to a continuing care facility for the provision of certain health care services whenever the subscriber or enrollee is a resident of the continuing care facility.

BY adding to

Article - Health - General
Section 19-712.6
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1996 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, Over 10,000 Marylanders, over the age of 65, reside in continuing care retirement communities; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Many older citizens choose to live in continuing care retirement communities for the rest of their lives; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Continuing care retirement communities provide the entire continuum of health care services; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Continuing care retirement communities are wellness managed care organizations that have been in existence for over 20 years; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Health care services delivered in one's home are more cost effective for the individual and the entire health care system and are better for the physical, mental, and overall well being of an individual; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Geographic separation for married individuals who reside together in a continuing care retirement community would occur if they could not return to their continuing care retirement community for rehabilitation and recuperation; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Health - General

19-712.6.

(A) WHENEVER A SUBSCRIBER OR AN ENROLLEE OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION IS A RESIDENT OF A CONTINUING CARE FACILITY