

(2) "Health care provider" includes the agents and employees of a facility who are licensed or otherwise authorized to provide health care, the officers and directors of a facility, and the agents and employees of a health care provider who are licensed or otherwise authorized to provide health care.

(e) "Health care practitioner" means any person that provides health care services and is licensed under the Health Occupations Article.

(f) "Health care service" means any health or medical care procedure or service rendered by a health care practitioner that:

(1) Provides testing, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease or dysfunction; or

(2) Dispenses drugs, medical devices, medical appliances, or medical goods for the treatment of human disease or dysfunction.

(G) "NURSING FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 19-1401 OF THIS TITLE.

[(g)](H) (1) "Office facility" means the office of one or more health care practitioners in which health care services are provided to individuals.

(2) "Office facility" includes a facility that provides:

(i) Ambulatory surgery;

(ii) Radiological or diagnostic imagery; or

(iii) Laboratory services.

(3) "Office facility" does not include any office, facility, or service operated by a hospital and regulated under Subtitle 2 of this title.

[(h)](I) "Payor" means:

(1) A health insurer or nonprofit health service plan that holds a certificate of authority and provides health insurance policies or contracts in the State in accordance with this article or the Insurance Article;

(2) A health maintenance organization that holds a certificate of authority in the State; or

(3) A third party administrator as defined in § 15-111 of the Insurance Article.

19-1508.

(D) (1) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING, SHALL:

(I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2001, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM TO COMPARATIVELY EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF CARE AND PERFORMANCE OF NURSING FACILITIES ON AN OBJECTIVE BASIS; AND