

(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.

(H) "HOSPITAL" HAS THE MEANING ~~INDICATED~~ STATED IN § 19-301(F) OF THIS TITLE.

[(g)] (I) (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)](J) "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.

(a) (1) In order to more efficiently establish a medical care data base under § 19-1507 of this subtitle, the Commission shall establish standards for the operation of one or more medical care electronic claims clearinghouses in Maryland and may license those clearinghouses meeting those standards.

(2) In adopting regulations under this subsection, the Commission shall consider appropriate national standards.

(3) The Commission may limit the number of licensed claims clearinghouses to assure maximum efficiency and cost effectiveness.

(4) The Commission, by regulation, may charge a reasonable licensing fee to operate a licensed claims clearinghouse.

(5) Health care practitioners in Maryland, as designated by the Commission, shall submit, and payors of health care services in Maryland as designated by the Commission shall receive claims for payment and any other information reasonably related to the medical care data base electronically in a