

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) In accordance with Title 15, Subtitle 12 of the Insurance Article, develop:

(i) A uniform set of effective benefits to be included in the Comprehensive Standard Health Benefit Plan; and

(ii) A modified health benefit plan for medical savings accounts;

(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;

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

(10) Foster the development of practice parameters;

(11) Reduce the costs of claims submission and the administration of claims for health care practitioners and payors; [and]

(12) Develop a uniform set of effective benefits to be offered as substantial, available, and affordable coverage in the nongroup market in accordance with § 15-606 of the Insurance Article; AND