

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article—Insurance~~

~~Section 15-112.1~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1997 Volume and 2001 Supplement)~~

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

**Article - Health - General**

19-319.

(e) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "UNIFORM STANDARD CREDENTIALING FORM" MEANS THE FORM DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY THROUGH REGULATION FOR CREDENTIALING PHYSICIANS WHO SEEK TO BE EMPLOYED BY OR HAVE STAFF PRIVILEGES AT A HOSPITAL.

(2) As a condition of licensure, each hospital shall:

(I) ~~[establish]~~ ESTABLISH a credentialing process for the physicians who are employed by or who have staff privileges at the hospital; AND

(II) USE THE UNIFORM STANDARD CREDENTIALING FORM PURSUANT TO § 15-112.1 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE AS THE INITIAL APPLICATION OF A PHYSICIAN SEEKING TO BE CREDENTIALLED.

(3) USE OF THE UNIFORM STANDARD CREDENTIALING FORM DOES NOT PRECLUDE A HOSPITAL FROM REQUIRING SUPPLEMENTAL OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS PART OF THE HOSPITAL'S CREDENTIALING PROCESS.

(2) (4) The Secretary shall, by regulation and in consultation with hospitals, physicians, interested community and advocacy groups, and representatives of the Maryland Defense Bar and Plaintiffs' Bar, establish minimum standards for a credentialing process which shall include:

(i) A formal written appointment process documenting the physician's education, clinical expertise, licensure history, insurance history, medical history, claims history, and professional experience.

(ii) A requirement that an initial appointment to staff not be complete until the physician has successfully completed a probationary period.

(iii) A formal, written reappointment process to be conducted at least every 2 years. The reappointment process shall document the physician's pattern of performance by analyzing claims filed against the physician, data dealing with utilization, quality, and risk, a review of clinical skills, adherence to hospital bylaws, policies and procedures, compliance with continuing education requirements, and mental and physical status.