

~~[(6)] (7) "Uniform credentialing form" means the form designated by the Commissioner through regulation for use by a [carrier or] CARRIER, its credentialing [intermediary] INTERMEDIARY, OR A HEALTH CARE FACILITY for credentialing and recredentialing a health care provider for participation on a provider panel OR FOR STAFF PRIVILEGES AT A HEALTH CARE FACILITY.~~

~~(B) THE UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF ALL INFORMATION THAT CARRIERS, CREDENTIALING INTERMEDIARIES AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES ARE REQUIRED TO COLLECT IN ORDER TO MEET THEIR CREDENTIALING RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, AND ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY A HEALTH CARE FACILITY FOR PURPOSES OF GRANTING STAFF PRIVILEGES.~~

~~[(b)] (C) (1) A carrier or its credentialing intermediary shall accept the uniform credentialing form as the sole application for a health care provider to become credentialed or recredentialled for a provider panel of the carrier.~~

~~(2) A HEALTH CARE FACILITY SHALL ACCEPT THE UNIFORM CREDENTIALING FORM AS THE SOLE APPLICATION FOR A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.~~

~~[(2)] (3) A carrier or its credentialing intermediary shall make the uniform credentialing form available to any health care provider that is to be credentialed or recredentialled by that carrier or credentialing intermediary OR BY A HEALTH CARE FACILITY.~~

~~[(e)] (D) The Commissioner may impose a penalty not to exceed \$500 against any carrier for each violation of this section by the [carrier or] CARRIER, its credentialing intermediary, OR HEALTH CARE FACILITY.~~

~~[(d)] (E) (1) The Commissioner shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.~~

~~(2) In adopting the regulations required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Commissioner shall consider the use of an electronic format for the uniform credentialing form and the filing of the uniform credentialing form by electronic means.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That ~~until such time as the Insurance Commissioner, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, has revised the regulations to meet the new requirements of this Act, may permit~~ a carrier ~~may~~ to use a health care facility's credentialing form to credential providers at that facility instead of the uniform form, if the carrier has designated the health care facility as the credentialing intermediary for the health care facility's physicians.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, ~~in modifying the uniform credentialing form to reflect the new requirements in this Act, the Insurance Commissioner, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, shall consult with carriers, managed care organizations, the Maryland Hospital Association, and the Maryland State Medical Society to ensure all necessary information is included in the uniform credentialing form~~ the Maryland Hospital