

~~Article Health Occupations~~~~1-401.~~~~(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.~~~~(2) (i) "Alternative health care system" means a system of health care delivery other than a hospital or related institution.~~~~(ii) "Alternative health care system" includes:~~~~1. A health maintenance organization;~~~~2. A preferred provider organization;~~~~3. An independent practice association;~~~~4. A community health center that is a nonprofit, freestanding ambulatory health care provider governed by a voluntary board of directors and that provides primary health care services to the medically indigent;~~~~5. A freestanding ambulatory care facility as that term is defined in § 10-3B-01 of the Health General Article; or~~~~6. Any other health care delivery system that utilizes a medical review committee.~~~~(3) "Medical review committee" means a committee or board that:~~~~(i) Is within one of the categories described in subsection (b) of this section; and~~~~(ii) Performs functions that include at least one of the functions listed in subsection (c) of this section.~~~~(4) (i) "Provider of health care" means any person who is licensed by law to provide health care to individuals.~~~~(ii) "Provider of health care" does not include any nursing institution that is conducted by and for those who rely on treatment by spiritual means through prayer alone in accordance with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination.~~~~(5) "The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems" means the State agency described in § 13-503 of the Education Article.~~