

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 19-319(d), 19-1301, 19-1305, 19-1305.1, and 19-1312

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 19-1305.2 and 19-1305.3

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1990 Replacement Volume and 1991 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.

(d) (1) As a condition of licensure, each hospital shall establish a utilization review program for all patients admitted to the hospital. The utilization review program:

(i) May be conducted by an independent, nonhospital-affiliated review agent;

(ii) Shall be performed by registered nurses, medical records technicians, or similar qualified personnel supported and supervised by physicians as may be required; and

(iii) Shall be approved and recertified at least every 2 years by the Secretary if it meets the minimum standards established under paragraph (3) of this subsection.

(2) If a hospital fails to provide the utilization review program required under this subsection, the Secretary may impose the following penalties:

(i) Delicensure of hospital; or

(ii) \$500 per day for each day the violation continues.

(3) The Secretary shall, by regulation and in consultation with health care providers and payors, establish minimum standards for a utilization review program, directed at appropriateness and quality of inpatient care, as enumerated in the following items:

(i) Preadmission review of elective admissions;

(ii) Postadmission review of emergency admissions;

(iii) Concurrent or retrospective review of all admissions as appropriate;