

[(d)](E) "Private review agent" means a nonhospital-affiliated person or entity performing utilization review that is either affiliated with, under contract with, or acting on behalf of:

(1) A Maryland business entity; or

(2) A third party that provides or administers hospital benefits to citizens of this State, including:

(i) A health maintenance organization issued a certificate of authority in accordance with Subtitle 7 of this title; or

(ii) A health insurer, nonprofit health service plan, health insurance service organization, or preferred provider organization authorized to offer health insurance policies or contracts in this State in accordance with Article 48A of the Code.

[(e)](F) "Significant beneficial interest" means the ownership of any financial interest that is greater than the lesser of:

(1) 5 percent of the whole; or

(2) \$5,000.

[(f)](G) "Utilization review plan" means a description of the standards governing utilization review activities performed by a private review agent.

[(g)](H) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene.

[(h)](I) "Commissioner" means the Insurance Commissioner.

[(i)](J) "Certificate" means a certificate of registration granted by the Secretary to a private review agent.

19-1305.

(A) In conjunction with the application, the private review agent shall submit information that the Secretary requires including:

(1) A utilization review plan that includes:

(i) [A description of review standards and procedures to be used in evaluating proposed or delivered hospital care;

(ii) ~~EXCEPT FOR INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, THE SPECIFIC CRITERIA AND STANDARDS, INCLUDING THE INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES, TO BE USED IN CONDUCTING UTILIZATION REVIEW OF PROPOSED OR DELIVERED SERVICES;~~

(II) Those circumstances, if any, under which utilization review may be delegated to a hospital utilization review program; and

(iii) The provisions by which patients, physicians, or hospitals may seek reconsideration or appeal of adverse decisions by the private review agent;