

appropriate and efficient allocation of health care resources and services given or proposed to be given to a patient or group of patients by a health care provider, including a hospital or an intermediate care facility described under § 8-403(e) of [this article] THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE.

(e) (1) In the event a patient or health care provider, including a physician, intermediate care facility described under § 8-403(e) of [this article] THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE, or hospital seeks reconsideration or appeal of an adverse decision by a private review agent, the final determination of the appeal of the adverse decision shall be made based on the professional judgment of a physician, or a panel of other appropriate health care providers with at least 1 physician, selected by the private review agent who is:

(i) 1. Board certified or eligible in the same specialty as the treatment under review; or

2. Actively practicing or has demonstrated expertise in the alcohol, drug abuse, or mental health service or treatment under review; and

(ii) Not compensated by the private review agent in a manner that provides a financial incentive directly or indirectly to deny or reduce coverage.

(2) In the event a patient or health care provider, including a physician, intermediate care facility described under § 8-403(e) of [this article] THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE, or hospital seeks reconsideration or appeal of an adverse decision by a private review agent, the final determination of the appeal of the adverse decision shall be stated in writing and shall reference the specific criteria and standards, including interpretive guidelines, upon which the denial or reduction in coverage is based.

(g) (1) A private review agent that requires a health care provider to submit a treatment plan in order for the private review agent to conduct utilization review of proposed or delivered services for the treatment of a mental illness, emotional disorder, or a drug abuse or alcohol abuse disorder:

(i) Shall accept the uniform treatment plan form adopted by the [Secretary under § 19-1303(e)] COMMISSIONER UNDER § 15-10B-03(D) of this subtitle as a properly submitted treatment plan form; and

(ii) May not impose any requirement to:

1. Modify the uniform treatment plan form or its content; or

2. Submit additional treatment plan forms.

(2) A uniform treatment plan form submitted under the provisions of this subsection:

(i) Shall be properly completed by the health care provider; and

(ii) May be submitted by electronic transfer.