

Maintenance Organizations, the League of Life and Health Insurers, the Medical-Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, and other interested organizations representing health care providers and health insurance carriers, to study hospital utilization review and report to certain legislative committees by a certain date.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article Health General~~

~~Section 10 1301(e), 10 1305(a), 10 1305.2(e), 10 1305.3(a) and (b), and 10 1312~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article Health General~~

~~10 1301.~~

~~(e) "Utilization review" means a system for reviewing the appropriate and efficient allocation of [hospital] HEALTH CARE resources and services given or proposed to be given to a patient or group of patients.~~

~~10 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) The specific criteria and standards 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;~~

~~(2) The type and qualifications of the personnel either employed or under contract to perform the utilization review;~~

~~(3) The procedures and policies to ensure that a representative of the private review agent is reasonably accessible to patients and providers [5] 7 days a week [during normal business hours] 8 HOURS A DAY in this State;~~

~~(4) The policies and procedures to ensure that all applicable State and federal laws to protect the confidentiality of individual medical records are followed;~~

~~(5) A copy of the materials designed to inform applicable patients and providers of the requirements of the utilization review plan;~~