

***Md. HEALTH-GENERAL Code Ann. § 20-1301 (2012)  
through § 20-1304 (2012)***

Annotated Code of Maryland  
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HEALTH - GENERAL  
TITLE 20. MISCELLANEOUS HEALTH PROVISIONS  
SUBTITLE 13. CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

**§ 20-1301. Definitions**

- (a) In general. -- In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) Cultural and linguistic competency. -- "Cultural and linguistic competency" means cultural and linguistic abilities that can be incorporated into therapeutic and medical evaluation and treatment, including:
- (1) Direct communication in the patient's primary language;
  - (2) Understanding and applying the roles that culture, ethnicity, and race play in diagnosis, treatment, and clinical care; and
  - (3) Awareness of how the attitudes, values, and beliefs of health care providers and patients influence and impact professional and patient relations.
- (c) Health care provider. -- "Health care provider" includes a physician, nurse, dentist, social worker, psychologist, or other allied health professional.
- (d) Program. -- "Program" means the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Provider Competency Program.

**HISTORY:** 2009, ch. 414.

**§ 20-1302. Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Provider Competency Program**

- (a) Established. -- There is a Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Provider Competency Program.
- (b) Purpose. -- The purpose of the Program is to provide for a voluntary program in which educational classes are offered to health care providers to teach health care providers:
- (1) Methods to improve the health care provider's cultural and linguistic competency to communicate with non-English speaking patients and patients from other cultures who are English speaking;

(2) Cultural beliefs and practices that may impact patient health care practices and allow health care providers to incorporate the knowledge of the beliefs and practices in the diagnosis and treatment of patients; and

(3) Methods to enable health care providers to increase the health literacy of their patients to improve the patient's ability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate health care decisions.

**HISTORY:** 2009, ch. 414.

### **§ 20-1303. Training programs**

The Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, the State Medical Society, the Maryland Nurses Association, the Maryland State Dental Association, the National Association of Social Workers -- Maryland Chapter, the Maryland Society for Clinical Social Work, the Maryland Psychological Association, or any other health professional association in the State is encouraged to identify training programs, or, if feasible, to develop or collaborate in the development of training programs, that:

(1) Address ethnic language or racial groups of interest to the health care provider members;

(2) Are based on the established knowledge of health care providers serving target populations;

(3) Are developed in collaboration with the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities; and

(4) Include standards that identify the degree of competency for participants to qualify for completion of a program.

**HISTORY:** 2009, ch. 414.

### **§ 20-1304. Recognition of training**

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall develop a method through which the appropriate professional licensing board recognizes the training received by health care providers under this subtitle, either through continuing education credits or otherwise.

**HISTORY:** 2009, ch. 414.