

5. Medical Review Committees

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS Code Ann. § 14-501(a) – (e)

§ 14-501. Primary source verification information system

(a) *Definitions.* --

(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Accrediting organization" means an organization that awards accreditation to managed care organizations, other health care organizations, hospitals, or other related institutions.

(3) "Primary source verification" means a procedure used by a hospital, related institution, or health maintenance organization to ensure the truth and accuracy of objective verifiable information submitted to the hospital, related institution, or health maintenance organization by a physician who is applying for practice privileges, entering into contract, or seeking employment with a hospital, related institution, or health maintenance organization.

(b) *Adoption of regulations -- In general.* -- On or before January 1, 1997, the Secretary shall adopt regulations for a credentialing primary source verification information system that is available for all physicians licensed under this article.

(c) *Adoption of regulations -- Procedure for collection of information; standards; monitoring.* -- After the Secretary reviews the standards of appropriate accrediting organizations and consults with the Faculty, the Maryland Hospital Association, and the Maryland Association of Health Maintenance Organizations, the regulations adopted by the Secretary under subsection (b) of this section shall:

(1) Provide for a procedure for the collection and release of primary source verification information;

(2) Include standards by which any organization, including the Faculty, may qualify to perform primary source verification; and

(3) Provide for the monitoring by the Secretary of any organization that qualifies to administer primary source verification.

(d) *Reliance on information provided.* -- The Secretary may authorize hospitals, related institutions, or health maintenance organizations to rely on primary source verification information provided by an organization qualified to perform primary source verification in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary under this section instead of requiring a hospital, related institution, or health maintenance organization to use its own primary source verification procedure to test the truth and accuracy of information submitted.

(e) *Entities may retain own procedure.* -- This section does not prohibit a hospital, related institution, or health maintenance organization from using its own primary source verification procedure.