

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-262 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: "It is the purpose of this subchapter to improve the quality of hospital care and other medical service provided veterans under this title, by authorizing the Secretary to enter into agreements with medical schools, health-care facilities, and research centers throughout the country in order to receive from and share with such medical schools, health-care facilities, and research centers the most advanced medical techniques and information, as well as certain specialized medical resources which otherwise might not be feasibly available or to effectively utilize other medical resources with the surrounding medical community, without diminution of services to veterans. Among other things, it is intended, by these means, to strengthen the medical programs at those Department hospitals which are located in small cities or rural areas and thus are remote from major medical centers. It is further the purpose of this subchapter to improve the provision of care to veterans under this title by authorizing the Secretary to enter into agreements with State veterans facilities for the sharing of health-care resources."

1993—Pub. L. 103-210 inserted at end "It is further the purpose of this subchapter to improve the provision of care to veterans under this title by authorizing the Secretary to enter into agreements with State veterans facilities for the sharing of health-care resources."

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5051 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" and "Department" for "Veterans' Administration".

1990—Pub. L. 101-366 substituted "health-care facilities," for "hospitals," in two places.

§ 8152. Definitions

For the purposes of this subchapter—

(1) The term "health-care resource" includes hospital care and medical services (as those terms are defined in section 1701 of this title), services under sections 1782 and 1783 of this title, any other health-care service, and any health-care support or administrative resource.

(2) The term "health-care providers" includes health-care plans and insurers and any organizations, institutions, or other entities or individuals who furnish health-care resources.

(3) The term "hospital", unless otherwise specified, includes any Federal, State, local, or other public or private hospital.

(Added Pub. L. 89-785, title II, § 203, Nov. 7, 1966, 80 Stat. 1373, § 5052; renumbered § 8152, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, § 402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; amended Pub. L. 102-54, § 14(f)(8), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 288; Pub. L. 103-210, § 3(b), Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2497; Pub. L. 104-262, title III, § 301(b), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3191; Pub. L. 107-135, title II, § 208(e)(8), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2464.)

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2002—Par. (1). Pub. L. 107-135 inserted "services under sections 1782 and 1783 of this title," after "of this title,".

1996—Pub. L. 104-262 added pars. (1) and (2), redesignated par. (4) as (3), and struck out former pars. (1) to (3) which read as follows:

"(1) The term 'research center' means an institution (or part of an institution), the primary function of which is research, training of specialists, and demonstrations and which, in connection therewith, provides specialized, high quality diagnostic and treatment services for inpatients and outpatients.

"(2) The term 'specialized medical resources' means medical resources (whether equipment, space, or personnel) which, because of cost, limited availability, or unusual nature, are either unique in the medical community or are subject to maximum utilization only through mutual use.

"(3) The term 'health-care resource' includes hospital care, medical services, and rehabilitative services, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (5), (6), and (8), respectively, of section 1701 of this title, any other health-care service, and any health-care support or administrative resource."

1993—Pars. (3), (4). Pub. L. 103-210 added par. (3) and redesignated former par. (3) as (4).

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5052 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-54 amended section as in effect immediately before the enactment of Pub. L. 102-40 by redesignating pars. (a), (b), and (c) as pars. (1), (2), and (3), respectively, and by realigning the margins.

§ 8153. Sharing of health-care resources

(a)(1) To secure health-care resources which otherwise might not be feasibly available, or to effectively utilize certain other health-care resources, the Secretary may, when the Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of the prevailing standards of the Department medical care program, make arrangements, by contract or other form of agreement for the mutual use, or exchange of use, of health-care resources between Department health-care facilities and any health-care provider, or other entity or individual.

(2) The Secretary may enter into a contract or other agreement under paragraph (1) if such resources are not, or would not be, used to their maximum effective capacity.

(3)(A) If the health-care resource required is a commercial service, the use of medical equipment or space, or research, and is to be acquired from an institution affiliated with the Department in accordance with section 7302 of this title, including medical practice groups and other entities associated with affiliated institutions, blood banks, organ banks, or research centers, the Secretary may make arrangements for acquisition of the resource without regard to any law or regulation (including any Executive order, circular, or other administrative policy) that would otherwise require the use of competitive procedures for acquiring the resource.

(B)(i) If the health-care resource required is a commercial service or the use of medical equipment or space, and is not to be acquired from an entity described in subparagraph (A), any procurement of the resource may be conducted without regard to any law or regulation that would otherwise require the use of competitive procedures for procuring the resource, but only if the procurement is conducted in accordance with the simplified procedures prescribed pursuant to clause (ii).

(ii) The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, may prescribe simplified procedures for the procurement of health-care resources under this subparagraph. The Secretary shall publish such