

PART B—HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH

§ 299b. Health care outcome improvement research**(a) Evidence rating systems**

In collaboration with experts from the public and private sector, the Agency shall identify and disseminate methods or systems to assess health care research results, particularly methods or systems to rate the strength of the scientific evidence underlying health care practice, recommendations in the research literature, and technology assessments. The Agency shall make methods or systems for evidence rating widely available. Agency publications containing health care recommendations shall indicate the level of substantiating evidence using such methods or systems.

(b) Health care improvement research centers and provider-based research networks**(1) In general**

In order to address the full continuum of care and outcomes research, to link research to practice improvement, and to speed the dissemination of research findings to community practice settings, the Agency shall employ research strategies and mechanisms that will link research directly with clinical practice in geographically diverse locations throughout the United States, including—

(A) health care improvement research centers that combine demonstrated multidisciplinary expertise in outcomes or quality improvement research with linkages to relevant sites of care;

(B) provider-based research networks, including plan, facility, or delivery system sites of care (especially primary care), that can evaluate outcomes and evaluate and promote quality improvement; and

(C) other innovative mechanisms or strategies to link research with clinical practice.

(2) Requirements

The Director is authorized to establish the requirements for entities applying for grants under this subsection.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §911, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1656.)

Editorial Notes**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 299b, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §911, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(a), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2192; amended Pub. L. 102-410, §5(b), Oct. 13, 1992, 106 Stat. 2097, related to establishment of Office of the Forum for Quality and Effectiveness in Health Care, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129.

Another prior section 299b, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §902, as added Oct. 6, 1965, Pub. L. 89-239, §2, 79 Stat. 927; amended Oct. 15, 1968, Pub. L. 90-574, title I, §103, 82 Stat. 1005; Oct. 30, 1970, Pub. L. 91-515, title I, §§104, 111(b), 84 Stat. 1299, 1301, defined terms for purposes of this subchapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-117, §12(d), Oct. 7, 1985, 99 Stat. 495.

§ 299b-1. Private-public partnerships to improve organization and delivery**(a) Support for efforts to develop information on quality****(1) Scientific and technical support**

In its role as the principal agency for health care research and quality, the Agency may provide scientific and technical support for private and public efforts to improve health care quality, including the activities of accrediting organizations.

(2) Role of the Agency

With respect to paragraph (1), the role of the Agency shall include—

(A) the identification and assessment of methods for the evaluation of the health of—

(i) enrollees in health plans by type of plan, provider, and provider arrangements; and

(ii) other populations, including those receiving long-term care services;

(B) the ongoing development, testing, and dissemination of quality measures, including measures of health and functional outcomes;

(C) the compilation and dissemination of health care quality measures developed in the private and public sector;

(D) assistance in the development of improved health care information systems;

(E) the development of survey tools for the purpose of measuring participant and beneficiary assessments of their health care; and

(F) identifying and disseminating information on mechanisms for the integration of information on quality into purchaser and consumer decision-making processes.

(b) Centers for education and research on therapeutics**(1) In general**

The Secretary, acting through the Director and in consultation with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall establish a program for the purpose of making one or more grants for the establishment and operation of one or more centers to carry out the activities specified in paragraph (2).

(2) Required activities

The activities referred to in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The conduct of state-of-the-art research for the following purposes:

(i) To increase awareness of—

(I) new uses of drugs, biological products, and devices;

(II) ways to improve the effective use of drugs, biological products, and devices; and

(III) risks of new uses and risks of combinations of drugs and biological products.

(ii) To provide objective clinical information to the following individuals and entities:

(I) Health care practitioners and other providers of health care goods or services.

(II) Pharmacists, pharmacy benefit managers and purchasers.

(III) Health maintenance organizations and other managed health care organizations.

(IV) Health care insurers and governmental agencies.

(V) Patients and consumers.

(iii) To improve the quality of health care while reducing the cost of health care through—

(I) an increase in the appropriate use of drugs, biological products, or devices; and

(II) the prevention of adverse effects of drugs, biological products, and devices and the consequences of such effects, such as unnecessary hospitalizations.

(B) The conduct of research on the comparative effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and safety of drugs, biological products, and devices.

(C) Such other activities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, except that a grant may not be expended to assist the Secretary in the review of new drugs, biological products, and devices.

(c) Reducing errors in medicine

The Director shall, in accordance with part C, conduct and support research and build private-public partnerships to—

(1) identify the causes of preventable health care errors and patient injury in health care delivery;

(2) develop, demonstrate, and evaluate strategies for reducing errors and improving patient safety; and

(3) disseminate such effective strategies throughout the health care industry.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §912, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1656; amended Pub. L. 109-41, §2(a)(1), July 29, 2005, 119 Stat. 424.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 299b-1, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §912, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(a), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2192; amended Pub. L. 102-410, §§5(a)(1), (c)(1), 6(b), Oct. 13, 1992, 106 Stat. 2096, 2097, 2100, related to the duties of the Office of the Forum for Quality and Effectiveness in Health Care, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129.

AMENDMENTS

2005—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-41 inserted “, in accordance with part C,” after “The Director shall” in introductory provisions.

§ 299b-2. Information on quality and cost of care

(a) In general

The Director shall—

(1) conduct a survey to collect data on a nationally representative sample of the population on the cost, use and, for fiscal year 2001 and subsequent fiscal years, quality of health care, including the types of health care services Americans use, their access to health care services, frequency of use, how much is paid for the services used, the source of those pay-

ments, the types and costs of private health insurance, access, satisfaction, and quality of care for the general population including rural residents and also for populations identified in section 299(c) of this title; and

(2) develop databases and tools that provide information to States on the quality, access, and use of health care services provided to their residents.

(b) Quality and outcomes information

(1) In general

Beginning in fiscal year 2001, the Director shall ensure that the survey conducted under subsection (a)(1) will—

(A) identify determinants of health outcomes and functional status, including the health care needs of populations identified in section 299(c) of this title, provide data to study the relationships between health care quality, outcomes, access, use, and cost, measure changes over time, and monitor the overall national impact of Federal and State policy changes on health care;

(B) provide information on the quality of care and patient outcomes for frequently occurring clinical conditions for a nationally representative sample of the population including rural residents; and

(C) provide reliable national estimates for children and persons with special health care needs through the use of supplements or periodic expansions of the survey.

In expanding the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, as in existence on December 6, 1999, in fiscal year 2001 to collect information on the quality of care, the Director shall take into account any outcomes measurements generally collected by private sector accreditation organizations.

(2) Annual report

Beginning in fiscal year 2003, the Secretary, acting through the Director, shall submit to Congress an annual report on national trends in the quality of health care provided to the American people.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §913, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1658.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

December 6, 1999, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), was in the original “the date of the enactment of this title”, which was translated as meaning the date of enactment of Pub. L. 106-129, which amended this subchapter generally, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 299b-2, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §913, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(a), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2193; amended Pub. L. 102-410, §5(c)(2), (f)(1)(A), Oct. 13, 1992, 106 Stat. 2097, 2098, related to development of guidelines and standards, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129.

§ 299b-3. Information systems for health care improvement

(a) In general

In order to foster a range of innovative approaches to the management and communica-