

(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-