

Article - Health - General

§4-301. Definitions

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) “Directory information” means information concerning the presence and general health condition of a patient who has been admitted to a health care facility or who is currently receiving emergency health care in a health care facility.

(2) “Directory information” does not include health care information developed primarily in connection with mental health services.

(c) “Disclose or disclosure” means the transmission or communication of information in a medical record, including an acknowledgment that a medical record on a particular patient or recipient exists.

(d) “Emergency” means a situation when, in the professional opinion of the health care provider, a clear and significant risk of death or imminent serious injury or harm to a patient or recipient exists.

(e) “General health condition” means the health status of a patient described in terms of “critical”, “poor”, “fair”, “good”, “excellent”, or terms denoting similar conditions.

(f) “Health care” means any care, treatment, or procedure by a health care provider:

(1) To diagnose, evaluate, rehabilitate, manage, treat, or maintain the physical or mental condition of a patient or recipient; or

(2) That affects the structure or any function of the human body.

(g) (1) “Health care provider” means:

(i) A person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article or § 13-516 of the Education Article to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession or in an approved education or training program; or

(ii) A facility where health care is provided to patients or recipients, including a facility as defined in § 10-101(e) of this article, a hospital as defined in § 19-301 of this article, a related institution as defined in § 19-301 of this article, a health maintenance organization as defined in § 19-701(g) of this article, an outpatient clinic, and a medical laboratory.

(2) “Health care provider” includes the agents, employees, officers, and directors of a facility and the agents and employees of a health care provider.

(h) (1) “Medical record” means any oral, written, or other transmission in any form or medium of information that:

(i) Is entered in the record of a patient or recipient;

(ii) Identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of a patient or recipient; and

(iii) Relates to the health care of the patient or recipient.

(2) “Medical record” includes any:

(i) Documentation of disclosures of a medical record to any person who is not an employee, agent, or consultant of the health care provider;

(ii) File or record maintained under § 12–403(b)(13) of the Health Occupations Article by a pharmacy of a prescription order for drugs, medicines, or devices that identifies or may be readily associated with the identity of a patient;

(iii) Documentation of an examination of a patient regardless of who:

1. Requested the examination; or

2. Is making payment for the examination; and

(iv) File or record received from another health care provider that:

1. Relates to the health care of a patient or recipient received from that health care provider; and

2. Identifies or can readily be associated with the identity of the patient or recipient.

(i) (1) “Mental health services” means health care rendered to a recipient primarily in connection with the diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, case management, or rehabilitation of any mental disorder.

(2) For acute general hospital services, mental health services are considered to be the primarily rendered service only if service is provided pursuant to Title 10, Subtitle 6 or Title 12 of this article.

(j) “Patient” means a person who receives health care and on whom a medical record is maintained.

(k) “Person in interest” means:

(1) An adult on whom a health care provider maintains a medical record;

(2) A person authorized to consent to health care for an adult consistent with the authority granted;

(3) A duly appointed personal representative of a deceased person;

(4) (i) A minor, if the medical record concerns treatment to which the minor has the right to consent and has consented under Title 20, Subtitle 1 of this article; or

(ii) A parent, guardian, custodian, or a representative of the minor designated by a court, in the discretion of the attending physician who provided the treatment to the minor, as provided in § 20–102 or § 20–104 of this article;

(5) If paragraph (4) of this subsection does not apply to a minor:

(i) A parent of the minor, except if the parent's authority to consent to health care for the minor has been specifically limited by a court order or a valid separation agreement entered into by the parents of the minor; or

(ii) A person authorized to consent to health care for the minor consistent with the authority granted; or

(6) An attorney appointed in writing by a person listed in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), or (5) of this subsection.

(l) "Primary provider of mental health services" means the designated mental health services provider who:

(1) Has primary responsibility for the development of the mental health treatment plan for the recipient; and

(2) Is actively involved in providing that treatment.

(m) "Recipient" means a person who has applied for, for whom an application has been submitted, or who has received mental health services.