

shall, at the conclusion of the action, award to a substantially prevailing party defending against any such claim the cost of the suit attributable to such claim, including a reasonable attorney's fee, if the claim, or the claimant's conduct during the litigation of the claim, was frivolous, unreasonable, without foundation, or in bad faith. For the purposes of this section, a defendant shall not be considered to have substantially prevailed when the plaintiff obtains an award for damages or permanent injunctive or declaratory relief.

(Pub. L. 99-660, title IV, § 413, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3787.)

#### § 11114. Guidelines of Secretary

The Secretary may establish, after notice and opportunity for comment, such voluntary guidelines as may assist the professional review bodies in meeting the standards described in section 11112(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 99-660, title IV, § 414, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3787.)

#### § 11115. Construction

##### (a) In general

Except as specifically provided in this subchapter, nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as changing the liabilities or immunities under law or as preempting or overriding any State law which provides incentives, immunities, or protection for those engaged in a professional review action that is in addition to or greater than that provided by this subchapter.

##### (b) Scope of clinical privileges

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as requiring health care entities to provide clinical privileges to any or all classes or types of physicians or other licensed health care practitioners.

##### (c) Treatment of nurses and other practitioners

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as affecting, or modifying any provision of Federal or State law, with respect to activities of professional review bodies regarding nurses, other licensed health care practitioners, or other health professionals who are not physicians.

##### (d) Treatment of patient malpractice claims

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as affecting in any manner the rights and remedies afforded patients under any provision of Federal or State law to seek redress for any harm or injury suffered as a result of negligent treatment or care by any physician, health care practitioner, or health care entity, or as limiting any defenses or immunities available to any physician, health care practitioner, or health care entity.

(Pub. L. 99-660, title IV, § 415, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3787; Pub. L. 100-177, title IV, § 402(c), as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, § 6103(e)(6)(A), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2208.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-239 added Pub. L. 100-177, § 402(c), see 1987 Amendment note below.

1987—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-177, § 402(c), as added by Pub. L. 101-239, inserted before period at end “or as preempting or overriding any State law which provides incentives, immunities, or protection for those engaged in a professional review action that is in addition to or greater than that provided by this subchapter”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 100-177 effective Nov. 14, 1986, see section 402(d) of Pub. L. 100-177, as renumbered and amended, set out as a note under section 11137 of this title.

#### SUBCHAPTER II—REPORTING OF INFORMATION

#### § 11131. Requiring reports on medical malpractice payments

##### (a) In general

Each entity (including an insurance company) which makes payment under a policy of insurance, self-insurance, or otherwise in settlement (or partial settlement) of, or in satisfaction of a judgment in, a medical malpractice action or claim shall report, in accordance with section 11134 of this title, information respecting the payment and circumstances thereof.

##### (b) Information to be reported

The information to be reported under subsection (a) of this section includes—

- (1) the name of any physician or licensed health care practitioner for whose benefit the payment is made,
- (2) the amount of the payment,
- (3) the name (if known) of any hospital with which the physician or practitioner is affiliated or associated,
- (4) a description of the acts or omissions and injuries or illnesses upon which the action or claim was based, and
- (5) such other information as the Secretary determines is required for appropriate interpretation of information reported under this section.

##### (c) Sanctions for failure to report

Any entity that fails to report information on a payment required to be reported under this section shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each such payment involved. Such penalty shall be imposed and collected in the same manner as civil money penalties under subsection (a) of section 1320a-7a of this title are imposed and collected under that section.

##### (d) Report on treatment of small payments

The Secretary shall study and report to Congress, not later than two years after November 14, 1986, on whether information respecting small payments should continue to be required to be reported under subsection (a) of this section and whether information respecting all claims made concerning a medical malpractice action should be required to be reported under such subsection.

(Pub. L. 99-660, title IV, § 421, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3788.)

### **§ 11132. Reporting of sanctions taken by Boards of Medical Examiners**

#### **(a) In general**

##### **(1) Actions subject to reporting**

Each Board of Medical Examiners—

(A) which revokes or suspends (or otherwise restricts) a physician's license or censures, reprimands, or places on probation a physician, for reasons relating to the physician's professional competence or professional conduct, or

(B) to which a physician's license is surrendered,

shall report, in accordance with section 11134 of this title, the information described in paragraph (2).

##### **(2) Information to be reported**

The information to be reported under paragraph (1) is—

(A) the name of the physician involved,

(B) a description of the acts or omissions or other reasons (if known) for the revocation, suspension, or surrender of license, and

(C) such other information respecting the circumstances of the action or surrender as the Secretary deems appropriate.

#### **(b) Failure to report**

If, after notice of noncompliance and providing opportunity to correct noncompliance, the Secretary determines that a Board of Medical Examiners has failed to report information in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall designate another qualified entity for the reporting of information under section 11133 of this title.

(Pub. L. 99-660, title IV, § 422, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3789.)

### **§ 11133. Reporting of certain professional review actions taken by health care entities**

#### **(a) Reporting by health care entities**

##### **(1) On physicians**

Each health care entity which—

(A) takes a professional review action that adversely affects the clinical privileges of a physician for a period longer than 30 days;

(B) accepts the surrender of clinical privileges of a physician—

(i) while the physician is under an investigation by the entity relating to possible incompetence or improper professional conduct, or

(ii) in return for not conducting such an investigation or proceeding; or

(C) in the case of such an entity which is a professional society, takes a professional review action which adversely affects the membership of a physician in the society,

shall report to the Board of Medical Examiners, in accordance with section 11134(a) of this title, the information described in paragraph (3).

##### **(2) Permissive reporting on other licensed health care practitioners**

A health care entity may report to the Board of Medical Examiners, in accordance

with section 11134(a) of this title, the information described in paragraph (3) in the case of a licensed health care practitioner who is not a physician, if the entity would be required to report such information under paragraph (1) with respect to the practitioner if the practitioner were a physician.

##### **(3) Information to be reported**

The information to be reported under this subsection is—

(A) the name of the physician or practitioner involved,

(B) a description of the acts or omissions or other reasons for the action or, if known, for the surrender, and

(C) such other information respecting the circumstances of the action or surrender as the Secretary deems appropriate.

#### **(b) Reporting by Board of Medical Examiners**

Each Board of Medical Examiners shall report, in accordance with section 11134 of this title, the information reported to it under subsection (a) of this section and known instances of a health care entity's failure to report information under subsection (a)(1) of this section.

#### **(c) Sanctions**

##### **(1) Health care entities**

A health care entity that fails substantially to meet the requirement of subsection (a)(1) of this section shall lose the protections of section 11111(a)(1) of this title if the Secretary publishes the name of the entity under section 11111(b) of this title.

##### **(2) Board of Medical Examiners**

If, after notice of noncompliance and providing an opportunity to correct noncompliance, the Secretary determines that a Board of Medical Examiners has failed to report information in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall designate another qualified entity for the reporting of information under subsection (b) of this section.

#### **(d) References to Board of Medical Examiners**

Any reference in this subchapter to a Board of Medical Examiners includes, in the case of a Board in a State that fails to meet the reporting requirements of section 11132(a) of this title or subsection (b) of this section, a reference to such other qualified entity as the Secretary designates.

(Pub. L. 99-660, title IV, § 423, Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3789.)

### **§ 11134. Form of reporting**

#### **(a) Timing and form**

The information required to be reported under sections 11131, 11132(a), and 11133 of this title shall be reported regularly (but not less often than monthly) and in such form and manner as the Secretary prescribes. Such information shall first be required to be reported on a date (not later than one year after November 14, 1986) specified by the Secretary.

#### **(b) To whom reported**

The information required to be reported under sections 11131, 11132(a), and 11133(b) of this title