cational backgrounds to reflect the varying needs of consumers and diverse levels of health literacy;

(C) shall, where appropriate, explain why there is a lack of evidence to support one treatment option over another; and

(D) shall address health care decisions across the age span, including those affecting vulnerable populations including children.

(3) Distribution

The Director shall ensure that patient decision aids produced with grants or contracts under this section are available to the public.

(4) Nonduplication of efforts

The Director shall ensure that the activities under this section of the Agency and other agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, are free of unnecessary duplication of effort.

(e) Grants to support shared decisionmaking implementation

(1) In general

The Secretary shall establish a program to provide for the phased-in development, implementation, and evaluation of shared decisionmaking using patient decision aids to meet the objective of improving the understanding of patients of their medical treatment options.

(2) Shared decisionmaking resource centers

(A) In general

The Secretary shall provide grants for the establishment and support of Shared Decisionmaking Resource Centers (referred to in this subsection as ''Centers'') to provide technical assistance to providers and to develop and disseminate best practices and other information to support and accelerate adoption, implementation, and effective use of patient decision aids and shared decisionmaking by providers.

(B) Objectives

The objective of a Center is to enhance and promote the adoption of patient decision aids and shared decisionmaking through—

(i) providing assistance to eligible providers with the implementation and effective use of, and training on, patient decision aids; and

(ii) the dissemination of best practices and research on the implementation and effective use of patient decision aids.

(3) Shared decisionmaking participation grants

(A) In general

The Secretary shall provide grants to health care providers for the development and implementation of shared decisionmaking techniques and to assess the use of such techniques.

(B) Preference

In order to facilitate the use of best practices, the Secretary shall provide a preference in making grants under this subsection to health care providers who participate in training by Shared Decisionmaking Resource Centers or comparable training.

(C) Limitation

Funds under this paragraph shall not be used to purchase or implement use of patient decision aids other than those certified under the process identified in subsection (c).

(4) Guidance

The Secretary may issue guidance to eligible grantees under this subsection on the use of patient decision aids.

(f) Funding

For purposes of carrying out this section there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 and each subsequent fiscal year.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, § 936, as added Pub. L. 111–148, title III, § 3506, Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 527.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 936 of act July 1, 1944, was renumbered section 946 and is classified to section 299c–5 of this title.

§ 299b–37. Dissemination and building capacity for research

(a) In general

(1) Dissemination

The Office of Communication and Knowledge Transfer (referred to in this section as the ''Office'') at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (or any other relevant office designated by Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), in consultation with the National Institutes of Health, shall broadly disseminate the research findings that are published by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute established under section 1320e(b) of this title (referred to in this section as the ''Institute'') and other government-funded research relevant to comparative clinical effectiveness research. The Office shall create informational tools that organize and disseminate research findings for physicians, health care providers, patients, payers, and policy makers. The Office shall also develop a publicly available resource database that collects and contains government-funded evidence and research from public, private, not-for profit, and academic sources.

(2) Requirements

The Office shall provide for the dissemination of the Institute's research findings and government-funded research relevant to comparative clinical effectiveness research to physicians, health care providers, patients, vendors of health information technology focused on clinical decision support, appropriate professional associations, and Federal and private health plans. Materials, forums, and media used to disseminate the findings, informational tools, and resource databases shall—

(A) include a description of considerations for specific subpopulations, the research methodology, and the limitations of the re-

search, and the names of the entities, agencies, instrumentalities, and individuals who conducted any research which was published by the Institute; and

(B) not be construed as mandates, guidelines, or recommendations for payment, coverage, or treatment.

(b) Incorporation of research findings

The Office, in consultation with relevant medical and clinical associations, shall assist users of health information technology focused on clinical decision support to promote the timely incorporation of research findings disseminated under subsection (a) into clinical practices and to promote the ease of use of such incorporation.

(c) Feedback

The Office shall establish a process to receive feedback from physicians, health care providers, patients, and vendors of health information technology focused on clinical decision support, appropriate professional associations, and Federal and private health plans about the value of the information disseminated and the assistance provided under this section.

(d) Rule of construction

Nothing in this section shall preclude the Institute from making its research findings publicly available as required under section 1320e(d)(8) of this title.

(e) Training of researchers

The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, in consultation with the National Institutes of Health, shall build capacity for comparative clinical effectiveness research by establishing a grant program that provides for the training of researchers in the methods used to conduct such research, including systematic reviews of existing research and primary research such as clinical trials. At a minimum, such training shall be in methods that meet the methodological standards adopted under section 1320e(d)(9) of this title.

(f) Building data for research

The Secretary shall provide for the coordination of relevant Federal health programs to build data capacity for comparative clinical effectiveness research, including the development and use of clinical registries and health outcomes research data networks, in order to develop and maintain a comprehensive, interoperable data network to collect, link, and analyze data on outcomes and effectiveness from multiple sources, including electronic health records.

(g) Authority to contract with the Institute

Agencies and instrumentalities of the Federal Government may enter into agreements with the Institute, and accept and retain funds, for the conduct and support of research described in this part, provided that the research to be conducted or supported under such agreements is authorized under the governing statutes of such agencies and instrumentalities.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, § 937, as added Pub. L. 111–148, title VI, § 6301(b), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 738.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 937 of act July 1, 1944, was renumbered section 947 and is classified to section 299c–6 of this title.

PART E—GENERAL PROVISIONS

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111–148, title III, § 3013(a)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 381, redesignated part D ''General Provisions'' as E.

2005—Pub. L. 109–41, § 2(a)(2), July 29, 2005, 119 Stat. 424, redesignated part C ''General Provisions'' as D.

§ 299c. Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality

(a) Establishment

There is established an advisory council to be known as the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality.

(b) Duties

(1) In general

The Advisory Council shall advise the Secretary and the Director with respect to activities proposed or undertaken to carry out the mission of the Agency under section 299(b) of this title.

(2) Certain recommendations

Activities of the Advisory Council under paragraph (1) shall include making recommendations to the Director regarding—

(A) priorities regarding health care research, especially studies related to quality, outcomes, cost and the utilization of, and access to, health care services;

(B) the field of health care research and related disciplines, especially issues related to training needs, and dissemination of information pertaining to health care quality; and

(C) the appropriate role of the Agency in each of these areas in light of private sector activity and identification of opportunities for public-private sector partnerships.

(c) Membership

(1) In general

The Advisory Council shall, in accordance with this subsection, be composed of appointed members and ex officio members. All members of the Advisory Council shall be voting members other than the individuals designated under paragraph (3)(B) as ex officio members.

(2) Appointed members

The Secretary shall appoint to the Advisory Council 21 appropriately qualified individuals. At least 17 members of the Advisory Council shall be representatives of the public who are not officers or employees of the United States and at least 1 member who shall be a specialist in the rural aspects of 1 or more of the professions or fields described in subparagraphs (A) through (G). The Secretary shall ensure that the appointed members of the Council, as a group, are representative of professions and entities concerned with, or affected by, activities under this subchapter and under section 1320b–12 of this title. Of such members—

(A) three shall be individuals distinguished in the conduct of research, demonstration