

less the application is recommended for approval by a peer review group established under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Establishment of peer review groups

(1) In general

The Director shall establish such technical and scientific peer review groups as may be necessary to carry out this section. Such groups shall be established without regard to the provisions of title 5 that govern appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 53, of such title that relate to classification and pay rates under the General Schedule.

(2) Membership

The members of any peer review group established under this section shall be appointed from among individuals who by virtue of their training or experience are eminently qualified to carry out the duties of such peer review group. Officers and employees of the United States may not constitute more than 25 percent of the membership of any such group. Such officers and employees may not receive compensation for service on such groups in addition to the compensation otherwise received for these duties carried out as such officers and employees.

(3) Duration

Notwithstanding section 14(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, peer review groups established under this section may continue in existence until otherwise provided by law.

(4) Qualifications

Members of any peer review group shall, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

(A) Such members shall agree in writing to treat information received, pursuant to their work for the group, as confidential information, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to public records and public information.

(B) Such members shall agree in writing to recuse themselves from participation in the peer review of specific applications which present a potential personal conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict, including employment in a directly affected organization, stock ownership, or any financial or other arrangement that might introduce bias in the process of peer review.

(d) Authority for procedural adjustments in certain cases

In the case of applications for financial assistance whose direct costs will not exceed \$100,000, the Director may make appropriate adjustments in the procedures otherwise established by the Director for the conduct of peer review under this section. Such adjustments may be made for the purpose of encouraging the entry of individuals into the field of research, for the purpose of encouraging clinical practice-oriented or provider-based research, and for such other purposes as the Director may determine to be appropriate.

(e) Regulations

The Director shall issue regulations for the conduct of peer review under this section.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §942, formerly §922, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1665; renumbered §932, Pub. L. 109-41, §2(a)(3), July 29, 2005, 119 Stat. 424; renumbered §942, Pub. L. 111-148, title III, §3013(a)(2), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 381.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The provisions of title 5 that govern appointments in the competitive service, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), are classified generally to section 3301 et seq. of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Section 14(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(3), is section 14(a) of Pub. L. 92-463, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 299c-1, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §922, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(c), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2201; amended Pub. L. 101-508, title IV, §4118(f)(2)(F), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-70; Pub. L. 102-410, §5(d), Oct. 13, 1992, 106 Stat. 2098, related to peer review with respect to grants and contracts, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129.

§ 299c-2. Certain provisions with respect to development, collection, and dissemination of data

(a) Standards with respect to utility of data

(1) In general

To ensure the utility, accuracy, and sufficiency of data collected by or for the Agency for the purpose described in section 299(b) of this title, the Director shall establish standard methods for developing and collecting such data, taking into consideration—

(A) other Federal health data collection standards; and

(B) the differences between types of health care plans, delivery systems, health care providers, and provider arrangements.

(2) Relationship with other Department programs

In any case where standards under paragraph (1) may affect the administration of other programs carried out by the Department of Health and Human Services, including the programs under title XVIII, XIX or XXI of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq., 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.], or may affect health information that is subject to a standard developed under part C of title XI of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.], they shall be in the form of recommendations to the Secretary for such program.

(b) Statistics and analyses

The Director shall—

(1) take appropriate action to ensure that statistics and analyses developed under this subchapter are of high quality, timely, and duly comprehensive, and that the statistics are specific, standardized, and adequately analyzed and indexed; and

(2) publish, make available, and disseminate such statistics and analyses on as wide a basis as is practicable.

(c) Authority regarding certain requests

Upon request of a public or private entity, the Director may conduct or support research or

analyses otherwise authorized by this subchapter pursuant to arrangements under which such entity will pay the cost of the services provided. Amounts received by the Director under such arrangements shall be available to the Director for obligation until expended.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §943, formerly §923, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1666; renumbered §933, Pub. L. 109-41, §2(a)(3), July 29, 2005, 119 Stat. 424; renumbered §943, Pub. L. 111-148, title III, §3013(a)(2), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 381.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620. Part C of title XI of the Act is classified generally to part C (§1320d et seq.) of title XI of chapter 7 of this title. Titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Act are classified generally to subchapters XVIII (§1395 et seq.), XIX (§1396 et seq.), and XXI (§1397aa et seq.), respectively, of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of this title and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 299c-2, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §923, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(c), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2202; amended Pub. L. 102-410, §5(e), Oct. 12, 1992, 106 Stat. 2098, related to development, collection, and dissemination of data, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129.

§ 299c-3. Dissemination of information

(a) In general

The Director shall—

(1) without regard to section 501 of title 44, promptly publish, make available, and otherwise disseminate, in a form understandable and on as broad a basis as practicable so as to maximize its use, the results of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations conducted or supported under this subchapter;

(2) ensure that information disseminated by the Agency is science-based and objective and undertakes consultation as necessary to assess the appropriateness and usefulness of the presentation of information that is targeted to specific audiences;

(3) promptly make available to the public data developed in such research, demonstration projects, and evaluations;

(4) provide, in collaboration with the National Library of Medicine where appropriate, indexing, abstracting, translating, publishing, and other services leading to a more effective and timely dissemination of information on research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care to public and private entities and individuals engaged in the improvement of health care delivery and the general public, and undertake programs to develop new or improved methods for making such information available; and

(5) as appropriate, provide technical assistance to State and local government and health agencies and conduct liaison activities to such agencies to foster dissemination.

(b) Prohibition against restrictions

Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the Director may not restrict the publication or dissemination of data from, or the re-

sults of, projects conducted or supported under this subchapter.

(c) Limitation on use of certain information

No information, if an establishment or person supplying the information or described in it is identifiable, obtained in the course of activities undertaken or supported under this subchapter may be used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was supplied unless such establishment or person has consented (as determined under regulations of the Director) to its use for such other purpose. Such information may not be published or released in other form if the person who supplied the information or who is described in it is identifiable unless such person has consented (as determined under regulations of the Director) to its publication or release in other form.

(d) Penalty

Any person who violates subsection (c) of this section shall be subject to a civil monetary penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each such violation 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.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §944, formerly §924, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1667; renumbered §934, Pub. L. 109-41, §2(a)(3), July 29, 2005, 119 Stat. 424; renumbered §944, Pub. L. 111-148, title III, §3013(a)(2), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 381.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 299c-3, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §924, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(c), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2202; amended Pub. L. 102-410, §9, Oct. 13, 1992, 106 Stat. 2100, related to additional provisions with respect to grants and contracts, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129. See section 299c-4 of this title.

§ 299c-4. Additional provisions with respect to grants and contracts

(a) Financial conflicts of interest

With respect to projects for which awards of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts are authorized to be made under this subchapter, the Director shall by regulation define—

(1) the specific circumstances that constitute financial interests in such projects that will, or may be reasonably expected to, create a bias in favor of obtaining results in the projects that are consistent with such interests; and

(2) the actions that will be taken by the Director in response to any such interests identified by the Director.

(b) Requirement of application

The Director may not, with respect to any program under this subchapter authorizing the provision of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, provide any such financial assistance unless an application for the assistance is submitted to the Secretary and the application is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains such agreements, assurances, and information as the Director determines to be necessary to carry out the program involved.