

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.)

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 communication of health information, the Agency shall conduct and support research, evaluations, and initiatives to advance—

(1) the use of information systems for the study of health care quality and outcomes, including the generation of both individual provider and plan-level comparative performance data;

(2) training for health care practitioners and researchers in the use of information systems;

(3) the creation of effective linkages between various sources of health information, including the development of information networks;

(4) the delivery and coordination of evidence-based health care services, including the use of real-time health care decision-support programs;

(5) the utility and comparability of health information data and medical vocabularies by

addressing issues related to the content, structure, definitions and coding of such information and data in consultation with appropriate Federal, State and private entities;

(6) the use of computer-based health records in all settings for the development of personal health records for individual health assessment and maintenance, and for monitoring public health and outcomes of care within populations; and

(7) the protection of individually identifiable information in health services research and health care quality improvement.

(b) Demonstration

The Agency shall support demonstrations into the use of new information tools aimed at improving shared decision-making between patients and their care-givers.

(c) Facilitating public access to information

The Director shall work with appropriate public and private sector entities to facilitate public access to information regarding the quality of and consumer satisfaction with health care.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §914, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1658.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 299b-3, act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §914, as added Pub. L. 101-239, title VI, §6103(a), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2193; amended Pub. L. 102-410, §5(c)(3), 6(a), 7, Oct. 13, 1992, 106 Stat. 2097, 2099, 2100; Pub. L. 103-43, title XX, §2013(2), June 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 215, related to creation of an agenda and additional requirements, prior to the general amendment of this subchapter by Pub. L. 106-129.

§ 299b-4. Research supporting primary care and access in underserved areas

(a) Preventive Services Task Force

(1) Establishment and purpose

The Director shall convene an independent Preventive Services Task Force (referred to in this subsection as the “Task Force”) to be composed of individuals with appropriate expertise. Such Task Force shall review the scientific evidence related to the effectiveness, appropriateness, and cost-effectiveness of clinical preventive services for the purpose of developing recommendations for the health care community, and updating previous clinical preventive recommendations, to be published in the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services (referred to in this section as the “Guide”), for individuals and organizations delivering clinical services, including primary care professionals, health care systems, professional societies, employers, community organizations, non-profit organizations, Congress and other policy-makers, governmental public health agencies, health care quality organizations, and organizations developing national health objectives. Such recommendations shall consider clinical preventive best practice recommendations from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Institute of Medicine, specialty medical associations, patient groups, and scientific societies.

(2) Duties

The duties of the Task Force shall include—
 (A) the development of additional topic areas for new recommendations and interventions related to those topic areas, including those related to specific sub-populations and age groups;

(B) at least once during every 5-year period, review¹ interventions and update² recommendations related to existing topic areas, including new or improved techniques to assess the health effects of interventions;

(C) improved integration with Federal Government health objectives and related target setting for health improvement;

(D) the enhanced dissemination of recommendations;

(E) the provision of technical assistance to those health care professionals, agencies and organizations that request help in implementing the Guide³ recommendations; and

(F) the submission of yearly reports to Congress and related agencies identifying gaps in research, such as preventive services that receive an insufficient evidence statement, and recommending priority areas that deserve further examination, including areas related to populations and age groups not adequately addressed by current recommendations.

(3) Role of Agency

The Agency shall provide ongoing administrative, research, and technical support for the operations of the Task Force, including coordinating and supporting the dissemination of the recommendations of the Task Force, ensuring adequate staff resources, and assistance to those organizations requesting it for implementation of the Guide's recommendations.

(4) Coordination with Community Preventive Services Task Force

The Task Force shall take appropriate steps to coordinate its work with the Community Preventive Services Task Force and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including the examination of how each task force's recommendations interact at the nexus of clinic and community.

(5) Operation

Operation.⁴ In carrying out the duties under paragraph (2), the Task Force is not subject to the provisions of Appendix 2 of title 5.

(6) Independence

All members of the Task Force convened under this subsection, and any recommendations made by such members, shall be independent and, to the extent practicable, not subject to political pressure.

(7) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry out the activities of the Task Force.

¹ So in original. Probably should be "review of".

² So in original. Probably should be "updating of".

³ So in original. Probably should be "Guide's".

⁴ So in original.

(b) Primary care research**(1) In general**

There is established within the Agency a Center for Primary Care Research (referred to in this subsection as the "Center") that shall serve as the principal source of funding for primary care practice research in the Department of Health and Human Services. For purposes of this paragraph, primary care research focuses on the first contact when illness or health concerns arise, the diagnosis, treatment or referral to specialty care, preventive care, and the relationship between the clinician and the patient in the context of the family and community.

(2) Research

In carrying out this section, the Center shall conduct and support research concerning—

(A) the nature and characteristics of primary care practice;

(B) the management of commonly occurring clinical problems;

(C) the management of undifferentiated clinical problems; and

(D) the continuity and coordination of health services.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title IX, §915, as added Pub. L. 106-129, §2(a), Dec. 6, 1999, 113 Stat. 1659; amended Pub. L. 111-148, title IV, §4003(a), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 541.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Appendix 2 of title 5, referred to in subsec. (a)(5), probably means the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-148 added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which related to establishment and purpose of Preventive Services Task Force, provision of support by Agency, and nonapplicability of provisions of Appendix 2 of title 5.

§ 299b-4a. Studies on preventive interventions in primary care for older Americans**(a) Studies**

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the United States Preventive Services Task Force, shall conduct a series of studies designed to identify preventive interventions that can be delivered in the primary care setting and that are most valuable to older Americans.

(b) Mission statement

The mission statement of the United States Preventive Services Task Force is amended to include the evaluation of services that are of particular relevance to older Americans.

(c) Report

Not later than 1 year after December 21, 2000, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report on the conclusions of the studies conducted under subsection (a) of this section, together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative actions as the Secretary considers appropriate.