
42 U.S. Code § 1320a-7c

Fraud and abuse control program

(a) Establishment of program

(1) In general

Not later than January 1, 1997, the Secretary, acting through the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General shall establish a program—

- (A) to coordinate Federal, State, and local law enforcement programs to control fraud and abuse with respect to health plans,
- (B) to conduct investigations, audits, evaluations, and inspections relating to the delivery of and payment for health care in the United States,
- (C) to facilitate the enforcement of the provisions of sections 1320a-7, 1320a-7a, and 1320a-7b of this title and other statutes applicable to health care fraud and abuse, and
- (D) to provide for the modification and establishment of safe harbors and to issue advisory opinions and special fraud alerts pursuant to section 1320a-7d of this title.

(2) Coordination with health plans

In carrying out the program established under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Attorney General shall consult with, and arrange for the sharing of data with representatives of health plans.

(3) Guidelines

(A) In general

The Secretary and the Attorney General shall issue guidelines to carry out the program under paragraph (1). The provisions of sections 553, 556, and 557 of title 5 shall not apply in the issuance of such guidelines.

(B) Information guidelines

(i) In general

Such guidelines shall include guidelines relating to the furnishing of information by health plans, providers, and others to enable the Secretary and the Attorney General to carry out the program (including coordination with health plans under paragraph (2)).

(ii) Confidentiality

Such guidelines shall include procedures to assure that such information is provided and utilized in a manner that appropriately protects the confidentiality of the information and the privacy of individuals receiving health care services and items.

(iii) Qualified immunity for providing information

The provisions of section 1320c-6(a) of this title (relating to limitation on liability) shall apply to a person providing information to the Secretary or the Attorney General in conjunction with their

performance of duties under this section.

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