

1 4. a dental plan organization; or

2 5. any other person that provides health benefit plans
3 subject to regulation by the State.

4 (ii) "Carrier" includes an entity that arranges a provider panel for a
5 carrier.

6 (3) "Contract" means the implied or express agreement between a health
7 care provider and carrier, including the rights, obligations, and fee schedule for the
8 provision of health care services.

9 (4) "Health care provider" means an individual who is licensed, certified,
10 or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article to provide health care
11 services.

12 (b) (1) (I) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
13 PARAGRAPH, A carrier may not in any manner assign, transfer, or subcontract a
14 health care provider's contract, wholly or partly, to:

15 1. an insurer that offers personal injury protection coverage
16 under § 19-505 of this article;

17 2. AN INSURER THAT OFFERS WORKERS' COMPENSATION
18 COVERAGE UNDER TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;
19 OR

20 3. THE INJURED WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND.

21 (II) [without first informing the health care provider and
22 obtaining] A CARRIER MAY ONLY ASSIGN, TRANSFER, OR SUBCONTRACT A HEALTH
23 CARE PROVIDER'S CONTRACT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IF THE
24 CARRIER FIRST INFORMS THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND OBTAINS the health
25 care provider's express written consent.

26 (2) A carrier may not terminate, limit, or otherwise impair the contract
27 or employment of a health care provider with the carrier on the basis that the health
28 care provider refused to agree to an assignment, transfer, or subcontract of all or part
29 of the health care provider's contract to:

30 (I) an insurer that offers personal injury protection coverage under
31 § 19-505 of this article;

32 (II) AN INSURER THAT OFFERS WORKERS' COMPENSATION
33 COVERAGE UNDER TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;
34 OR

35 (III) THE INJURED WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2006.