

- 1 (5) 'Medical review committee' means a committee of a State or local
2 professional society, of a medical staff of a licensed hospital or a
3 committee of a peer review corporation or organization which is
4 formed for the purpose of evaluating the quality, cost of, or necessity
5 for hospitalization or health care, including medical staff credentialing.
- 6 (6) ~~'Primary care hospital'~~ 'Critical access hospital' means a hospital
7 which has been designated as a ~~primary care~~ critical access hospital by
8 the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Office
9 of Rural Health and Resource Development. To be designated as a
10 ~~primary care~~ critical access hospital under this subdivision, the
11 hospital must ~~be located in a rural community, provide primary care~~
12 ~~inpatient services that do not include inpatient surgery, and provide~~
13 ~~outpatient services which may include outpatient surgery.~~ meet the
14 requirements of federal law for certification as a critical access
15 hospital. A primary care hospital shall have a maximum annual
16 average daily census of 15 patients and may have psychiatric and long-
17 term care distinct part units. A primary care hospital must be part of a
18 rural hospital network. A hospital designated as a critical access
19 hospital shall, at a minimum, offer primary outpatient services and
20 ensure the availability of 24-hour emergency care. A critical access
21 hospital must be part of a rural hospital network.
- 22 (7) 'Rural hospital network' means an alliance of members that shall
23 include at least one ~~primary care~~ critical access hospital and one other
24 hospital. To qualify as a rural hospital network, the ~~members~~ critical
25 access hospital must submit a comprehensive, written memorandum of
26 understanding to the Department of Health and Human Services for
27 the Department's approval. The memorandum of understanding must
28 include provisions for patient referral and transfer, a plan for
29 network-wide emergency services, and a plan for sharing patient
30 information and services between hospital members including medical
31 staff credentialing, risk management, quality assurance, and peer
32 review."

33 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.