

Part 4. Arthritis.

**§ 130A-222. Department to establish program.**

(a) The Department shall establish and administer a program for the detection and prevention of arthritis and the care and treatment of persons with arthritis. The purpose of the program shall be:

- (1) To improve professional education for physicians and allied health professionals including nurses, physical and occupational therapists and social workers;
- (2) To conduct programs of public education and information;
- (3) To provide detection and treatment programs and services for the at-risk population of this State;
- (4) To utilize the services available at the State medical schools, existing arthritis rehabilitation centers and existing local arthritis clinics and agencies;
- (5) To develop an arthritis outreach clinical system;
- (6) To develop and train personnel at clinical facilities for diagnostic work-up, laboratory analysis and consultations with primary physicians regarding patient management; and
- (7) To develop the epidemiologic studies to determine frequency and distribution of the disease.

(b) The Commission is authorized to adopt rules necessary to implement the program. (1979, c. 996, s. 2; 1983, c. 891, s. 2.)