

## Data Bank Recognized as “Green Champion” by HHS

The Data Bank was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a “Green Champion” for fostering a sustainable project that curbs paper use and lowers costs while enhancing program services. The Data Bank’s paper reduction effort reduces paper use by more than 660,000 pages, resulting in a significant cost savings.



The Data Bank’s environmentally friendly strategies include:

- Going paperless by fully automating the process through which hospitals, health plans, and other organizations renew their Data Bank registrations.
- Converting the printed quarterly newsletter to an entirely electronic monthly format, distributed by email to eliminate printing and postage costs.
- Implementing the Express Self-Query which now allows practitioners to obtain self-queries of their Data Bank record instantly online, rather than via a paper-based request.
- Planning to reduce electricity consumption by upgrading the Data Bank’s servers and data center to more efficient technology.

Seth Marcus, chief of the Division of Practitioner Data Bank’s Operations and Administration Branch, said of the award: “The Data Bank IT team works hard to plan, design, and implement system enhancements to automate paper-based processes. I am excited that we are increasingly offering online, electronic options for Data Bank users. It is a win-win for everyone. Our customers get their system output faster, we have less paper to physically handle, and we can see the costs for printing, postage, electricity, and other expenses going down. We are honored to be recognized as Green Champions, and will continue to seek efficient technology solutions in 2014 and beyond.”

HHS established the Green Champion program in response to a 2009 Executive Order urging Federal agencies to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, energy, water consumption, and pollution.

## Did You Know... An Organization May Designate Multiple Data Bank Administrators?

Organizations registered with the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) may assign more than one Data Bank administrator to share administrator responsibilities and duties. The main benefit for user account holders is the availability of more than one person to exercise the account privileges of Data Bank administrators, such as:



- Resetting passwords.
- Creating, editing, and deleting user accounts.
- Identity-proofing new users.
- Granting appropriate reporting, querying, and billing permissions for each user account.
- Activating Continuous Query.
- Completing registration renewals and updates.
- Coordinating organization/authorized agent relationships and other administrative duties.

If an organization decides that delegating more than one administrator would be helpful, it can create multiple user accounts with administrator privileges. Administrators play an important role within their organization and ensure the integrity of Data Bank accounts. Learn more about Data Bank administrator roles and responsibilities on our [Management Tools](#) page.

## Data Bank Presents “What Compliance Officers Need to Know” at Annual Compliance Conference



The Health Care Compliance Association held its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Compliance Institute in San Diego from March 30 to April 2, 2014. Among the speakers were key Federal, State, and local government officials providing valuable insight on the sea of change health care compliance officers face and to help provide direction for health care compliance programs. The Data Bank was represented by David Loewenstein, chief of the Division of Practitioner Data Bank’s

Compliance Branch. Mr. Loewenstein presented a session entitled “The National Practitioner Data Bank: What Compliance Officers Need to Know.” This session offered insight on:

- The NPDB: the Federal statutes that govern it and the obligation of hospitals to use the NPDB.
- The intersecting roles of compliance officers, medical staff service professionals, and HR professionals in meeting NPDB querying and reporting obligations.
- The emerging Data Bank hospital compliance program.

The Data Bank continually works with organizations to ensure that reportable actions are successfully submitted to the NPDB. If your organization needs assistance in its compliance efforts, please view our [webcasts](#), [About Compliance](#) page, and [compliance action tutorial](#). You can also send us an [email](#) or complete the [Education Request Form](#) to schedule a Data Bank education session via webinar or, if you are local to the Washington, DC metropolitan area, in person.

Data Bank  
***Fast Facts***

On average, how many practitioner names are queried upon each week?

a. 385

b. 5,315

c. 38,108

d. 82,486

Answer: d.