

Eligibility Determines Query Access



Since the merger of the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank with the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) in May 2013, questions have arisen from users about what kind of Data Bank information is available to their organizations. As always, eligible entities have access to information based on their statutory authority to receive it under each of the three laws governing Data Bank operations. These laws include [Title IV](#) of Public Law 99-660, [Section 1921](#) of the Social Security Act, and [Section 1128E](#) of the Social Security Act. For example, a Data Bank report submitted under the sole authority of Title IV (e.g., a Medical Malpractice Payment Report) will only be disclosed to entities that query on the subject of the report and have authority to receive Title IV information. (Entities authorized to receive Title IV information include hospitals, other health care entities, professional societies, and state licensing boards.) [Entities authorized to query only Section 1921 and Section 1128E information](#) will not have access to that report. When registering with the Data Bank, an entity's statutory authority is determined based on the entity's certification of its eligibility. This authority is validated each time an entity renews its registration.

The merger did not restrict any information to which entities previously had access; in fact, some querying entities are authorized to receive additional report information that was not previously available to them. For example, hospitals and other health care entities now have access to certain adverse actions reported by Federal agencies and health plans under Section 1128E. Agents that manage multiple and different entity type accounts also may see this change in what's available to certain entities.

If your organization believes it may not be receiving all Data Bank information it is authorized to receive when querying, check your entity user profile to confirm you are correctly registered.

Helpful Hints for Using the Data Bank

Submitting Successful Queries

When submitting information for a query, you must submit **complete** and accurate information. Omitting information or inaccurate data entry will, at best, delay your query response and, at worst, could give you the wrong results. Here are some helpful hints to keep in mind when submitting queries:

- Enter all applicable fields.
- Check all fields for accuracy before you submit the query.
- Use the first, middle, and last name fields appropriately. Placing a middle name in a first or last name field will delay your response.



- Take advantage of the “Other Names Used” option. For example, if a practitioner once used a maiden name, include the maiden name in the “Other Names Used” field.
- Submit complete licensure information as it is listed on state board websites. Be sure to include all letters and numbers (including zeros).
- Include all school information if it is available, not just professional degrees.
- Check the Social Security Number, dates, and other numerical fields to be sure you did not transpose any digits.

Spread the Word: Online Express Self-Query Identity Verification



Organizations that require practitioners to submit self-query results should remind practitioners that they can now verify their identity online by answering identity-proofing questions and receive their electronic result within one business day, and in as soon as a few minutes. A paper copy of the result also will be sent via First Class mail. The new Express Self-Query service lets practitioners self-query without needing to submit a notarized

paper self-query form. If the practitioner cannot answer the online identity-proofing questions, the notary process - which requires a mailed paper form - is still available.