

Merger Information

Updated merger information is available on the Data Bank [homepage](http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov) (www.npdb.hrsa.gov).

The Top 5 Continuous Query Questions Answered



Before organizations decide to enroll their practitioners in Continuous Query, they often have basic questions about the service. Below, the Data Bank answers the top five questions that may persuade your organization to switch from One-Time Query to Continuous Query.

Many organizations consider Continuous Query to be a “best practice” because subscribers receive an initial query response for each enrolled practitioner and continue to receive ongoing monitoring for 1 year. When a report of a medical malpractice payment or other adverse action (such as a licensure or privileging action, Medicare/Medicaid exclusion, or health care-related conviction or judgment), is filed with the NPDB on an enrolled practitioner, your organization receives immediate notification. Continuous Query also meets [legal and accreditation requirements](#) for querying the Data Bank. Organizations enrolled in Continuous Query believe it is a timely and easy way to keep track of their practitioners’ report histories.

1. How do I activate and use Continuous Query?
 - Your Data Bank Administrator activates Continuous Query from the [Administrator Options](#) page and follows the online instructions. It is as simple as that!
2. How do I enroll practitioners and receive Continuous Query notifications?
 - Once your Data Bank Administrator activates Continuous Query, you will be able to [enroll](#) practitioners and receive Continuous Query benefits. Organizations may enroll all of their practitioners at one time, or choose to phase in practitioner enrollments over time. You can use the stored subject database to make enrolling easy.
3. How do I access a Continuous Query disclosure?
 - Accessing your Continuous Query notification is simple. When the Data Bank receives a report on an enrolled practitioner, the subscribing entity receives an email notification of the action and is advised to sign in to the Data Bank. The report can be accessed on demand via the Data Bank [Options](#) page by selecting [Report Updates](#) and following the on-screen instructions.

4. How do I update a practitioner profile in Continuous Query?
 - Organizations may need to update practitioner profile information with address changes, name changes, and updated licensure information, among other data. This process is easily explained in the [Update a Practitioner Profile](#) on the *Continuous Query* page.

5. How do I renew or cancel Continuous Query enrollments?
 - Continuous Query enrollments are active for a period of 1 year. Organizations may renew enrollments manually on an annual basis, or renew enrollments through an automatic renewal process. Every month, the Data Bank sends a summary email to alert each user of enrollments requiring renewals, or enrollments scheduled for automatic renewal. [Learn more](#) about renewing Continuous Query enrollments.

The current fee for enrolling practitioners in Continuous Query is \$3.25 per practitioner. The fee ensures that your organization is notified of existing reports on enrolled practitioners, as well as new reports throughout the 12-month enrollment.

What is keeping your organization from enrolling practitioners in Continuous Query today? Let us know by sending additional questions about getting started with Continuous Query to help@npdb.hrsa.gov.

Report and Query Form Code Lists for QRXS and ITP Users

When submitting Data Bank queries or reports, it is important to accurately submit the proper codes to represent the type of practitioner, the reportable action, and the purpose of the query or reason for the report. New codes are periodically added to update and reflect codes used in health care fields. The current lists of all data field codes are available in [PDF format](#) and in [CSV format](#) for developers. The code lists may be printed and used as a reference guide when completing query or report input forms.



Interpreting Self-Query Results – A Guide for Practitioners



A health care practitioner, entity, provider, and supplier may self-query at any time. The self-query service is available from the NPDB [website](#). Queriers can share the information contained in their self-query results with whomever they choose; however, such shared information does not satisfy a hospital's legal requirement to query the Data Bank. The Data Bank created a help guide entitled, [How to Interpret Your Self-Query Results](#) to assist practitioners in understanding their self-query results. The guide explains in detail each section of a Data Bank report with examples of the information available in the report. It also shows what a self-query result looks like if

the practitioner does not have any reports in the Data Bank. Health care organizations may want to refer practitioners to this helpful information.

Is It Reportable?

A State Licensing Board issued a formal cease and desist order to an unlicensed practitioner who held herself out to be a licensed psychotherapist. Should the action be reported to the NPDB?



Yes. NPDB regulations define a health care practitioner as an individual who is licensed or otherwise authorized by a state to provide health care services **or any individual who, without authority, holds himself or herself out to be so licensed or authorized.** Therefore, state licensure and certification actions taken against unlicensed individuals that result from a formal proceeding must be reported to the Data Bank. When reporting an action against an unlicensed individual, select "No License" on the licensure information screen, and select the field of licensure claimed by the individual for the "Occupation/Field of Licensure" category.