Is My Organization an Entity or an Agent?

**Entities:**
- Are health care organizations that meet the federal requirements to participate with the NPDB
- Have access to the NPDB for querying and reporting
- Can designate agents to perform querying and/or reporting tasks *on their behalf*

**Authorized Agents:**
- Do not meet "entity" requirements as a health care organization (and are often an independent contractor that assists entities with credentials verification)
- Must be designated by an entity to query and/or report on the entity’s behalf
- Must accept the relationship

To establish such a relationship, both the entity and the authorized agent must be properly registered with the NPDB and have a mutually-written agreement in effect prior to the authorized agent’s querying or reporting.

**NPDB**
- Can still query, report on own behalf
- Entities are responsible for meeting NPDB reporting and querying requirements, regardless of having designated an authorized agent

For more information about authorized agents, go to: [www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/aboutAuthorizedAgents.jsp](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/aboutAuthorizedAgents.jsp)

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