

Overview

The HIPDB collects and maintains information regarding final adverse actions taken against health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers. HIPDB information is intended to be used to help combat health care fraud and abuse, and to improve the quality of patient care. Examples of the types of actions in which HIPDB information should be used in combination with information from other sources include, but are not limited to: affiliation, certification, credentialing, contracting, hiring, and licensure.

Definitions

Since there is considerable overlap in the roles of practitioners, providers, and suppliers (e.g., a skilled nursing facility is an institutional provider, but also can be a supplier of health care items and equipment), the terms “practitioner,” “provider,” and “supplier” are not intended to describe distinct, mutually exclusive categories, nor are the examples provided intended to be exhaustive.

Licensed Health Care Practitioner, Licensed Practitioner, and Practitioner

An individual who is licensed or otherwise authorized by the State to provide health care services; or any individual who, without authority, holds himself or herself out to be so licensed or authorized.

Health Care Provider

- A provider of services as defined in Section 1861(u) of the Social Security Act .
- Any health care entity that provides health care services and follows a formal peer review process for the purpose of furthering quality health care (including an HMO, PPO, or group medical practice).
- Any other health care entity that, directly or through contracts, provides health care services.

Health Care Supplier

A provider of medical or other health care services as described in Section 1861(s) of the *Social Security Act*; or any individual or entity who furnishes, whether directly or indirectly, or provides access to, health care services, supplies, items, or ancillary services (including, but not limited to, durable medical equipment suppliers; manufacturers of health care items; pharmaceutical suppliers and manufacturers; health record services such as medical, dental and patient records; health data suppliers; and billing and transportation service suppliers). The term also includes any individual or entity under contract to provide such supplies, items, or ancillary services; health plans as defined in 45 CFR 61.3 (including employers that are self-insured); and health insurance producers (including but not limited to agents, brokers, solicitors, consultants, and reinsurance intermediaries).

Examples of Practitioners (Include, but are not limited to):**Chiropractor****Counselor**

Counselor, Mental Health
Professional Counselor
Professional Counselor, Alcohol
Professional Counselor, Family/Marriage
Professional Counselor, Substance Abuse

Dental Service Provider

Dentist
Dental Resident
Dental Assistant
Dental Hygienist
Denturist

Dietician/Nutritionist

Dietician
Nutritionist

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

EMT, Basic
EMT, Cardiac/Critical Care
EMT, Intermediate EMT, Paramedic

Nurse/Advanced Practice Nurse

Registered (Professional) Nurse
Nurse Anesthetist
Nurse Midwife
Nurse Practitioner
Licensed Practical or Vocational Nurse

Nurses Aide/Home Health Aide

Nurses Aide
Home Health Aide (Homemaker)

Eye and Vision Service Provider

Ocularist
Optician
Optometrist

Pharmacy Service Provider

Pharmacist
Pharmacist, Nuclear
Pharmacy Assistant

Physician

Allopathic Physician (MD)
Allopathic Physician Intern/Resident
Osteopathic Physician (DO)
Osteopathic Physician Intern/Resident

Physician Assistant

Physician Assistant, Allopathic
Physician Assistant, Osteopathic

Podiatric Service Provider

Podiatrist
Podiatric Assistant

Psychologist, Clinical**Rehabilitative, Respiratory, and Restorative Service Provider**

Art/Recreation Therapist
Massage Therapist
Occupational Therapist
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Physical Therapist
Physical Therapy Assistant
Rehabilitation Therapist
Respiratory Therapist
Respiratory Therapy Technician

Social Worker**Speech, Language, and Hearing Service Provider**

Audiologist
Speech/Language Pathologist

Technologist

Medical Technologist
Cytotechnologist
Nuclear Medicine Technologist
Radiation Therapy Technologist
Radiologic Technologist

Other Health Care Practitioner

Acupuncturist
Athletic Trainer
Homeopath
Medical Assistant
Midwife, Lay (Non-nurse)
Naturopath
Orthotics/Prosthetics Fitter
Perfusionist
Psychiatric Technician

Examples of Health Care Providers and Suppliers (Include, but are not limited to):

Individuals

Health Care Facility Administrator

Adult Care Facility Administrator
Hospital Administrator
Long-Term Care Administrator

Health Insurance Provider/Supplier

Insurance Agent
Insurance Broker

Organizations

Ambulance Service/Transportation Company

Group or Practice

Chiropractic Group/Practice
Dental Group/Practice
Medical Group/Practice
Mental Health/Substance Abuse
Group/Practice
Optician/Optomeric Group/Practice
Physical/Occupational Therapy Group/Practice
Podiatric Group/Practice

Health Care Supplier/Manufacturer

Biological Products Manufacturer
Blood Bank
Durable Medical Equipment Supplier
Fiscal/Billing/Management Agent
Nursing/Health Care Staffing Service
Organ Procurement Organization
Eyewear Equipment Supplier
Pharmacy
Pharmaceutical Manufacturer
Portable X-Ray Supplier
Purchasing Service

Health Insurance Company

Home Health Agency/Organization

Hospice/Hospice Care Provider

Hospital

General/Acute Care Hospital
Psychiatric Hospital
Rehabilitation Hospital
Federal Hospital

Other Health Care-Related Occupation

Accountant
Bookkeeper
Business Manager
Business Owner
Corporate Officer
Researcher, Clinical
Salesperson

Hospital Unit

Psychiatric Unit
Rehabilitation Unit

Laboratory/CLIA Laboratory

Nursing Facility/Skilled Nursing Facility

Research Center/Facility

Other Health Care Facility

Adult Day Care Facility
Ambulatory Surgical Center
Ambulatory Clinic/Center
End Stage Renal Disease Facility
Health Center/Federally Qualified Health
Center/Community Health Center
Intermediate Care Facility for Mentally
Retarded/Substance Abuse
Mammography Service Provider
Mental Health Center/Community Mental Health
Center
Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility/Comprehensive
Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility
Radiology/Imaging Center
Residential Treatment Facility/ Program
Rural Health Clinic

Managed Care Organization

Health Maintenance Organization
Preferred Provider Organization
Provider Sponsored Organization
Religious/Fraternal Benefit Society Plan

Practitioner, Provider, and Supplier Self-Queries

Practitioners, providers, and suppliers may query the HIPDB regarding themselves (self-query) at any time. A practitioner, provider, or supplier may initiate a self-query by completing, printing, and returning the self-query form found on the NPDB-HIPDB website to the following address:

NPDB-HIPDB
P.O. Box 10832
Chantilly, VA 20151

Additional information on the self-query process can be obtained on the NPDB-HIPDB website.

A practitioner, provider, or supplier who submits a self-query to the HIPDB will receive in response either a notification that no information exists in the HIPDB, or a copy of all report information submitted by eligible reporting entities about the practitioner, provider, or supplier.

Fees are charged for all self-queries to the HIPDB, and must be paid by credit card. Further details regarding the payment of self-query fees are found on the NPDB-HIPDB website.

Practitioner, Provider, or Supplier Information in the HIPDB

The HIPDB is committed to maintaining accurate information and ensuring that health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers are informed when adverse actions are reported. When the HIPDB receives a report, the information is processed by the HIPDB computer system exactly as submitted by the reporting entity. Reporting entities are responsible for the accuracy of the information they report to the HIPDB.

When the HIPDB processes a report, a *Report Verification Document* is sent to the reporting entity, and a *Notification of a Report in the Data Bank(s)* is sent to the subject. The practitioner, provider, or supplier who is the subject of the report should review the report for accuracy, including such information as current address, telephone number, and place of employment. **Subjects may not submit changes to reports.** If any information in a report is inaccurate, the subject must contact the reporting entity to request that it file a correction to the report. The HIPDB is prohibited by law from modifying information submitted in reports.

If the reporting entity refuses to correct the *Adverse Action Report* or the *Judgment or Conviction Report*, the subject of the report may:

- Add a statement to the report.
- Initiate a dispute of the report.
- Add a statement and initiate a dispute.

For further details regarding the HIPDB dispute process, refer to the Disputes section of this *Guidebook*.

Questions and Answers

1. How do I correct my address if it is wrong in a report?

Because neither the HIPDB nor a subject of a report may modify information contained in a report, you must contact the reporting entity (identified in the *Notification of a Report in the Data Bank(s)* document) and request that it correct the address on the report. If the reporting entity does not honor your request to correct the inaccurate address, you may dispute the report. Refer to the Disputes section of this *Guidebook* for more information about the HIPDB dispute process.

2. Can a health plan or a State Licensing Board require that I give them the results of my self-query?

The response you receive to a self-query is yours to do with as you wish. Various licensing, credentialing, and insuring organizations may require a copy of your self-query response before you may participate in their program. Any arrangement between you and one of these organizations is voluntary; HHS does not regulate such arrangements.

3. The reporter has denied your request to correct the report. The regulations say that only the reporter can make changes to the report. What can the subject do?

You may add a 2,000-character statement to the report, stating what you believe occurred. Also, if you believe the reporter does not meet the appropriate criteria to even submit a report, or if there are factual inaccuracies in the report, you may initiate a dispute of the report. Refer to the Disputes section of this *Guidebook* for more information about the HIPDB dispute process.