

THE HEALTHCARE INTEGRITY AND PROTECTION DATA BANK (HIPDB)

WHY SHOULD I QUERY IT?

By not querying the HIPDB, you might be missing information that is crucial to the efficient operation of your organization.

If your organization contracts with individual health care practitioners to provide services, the HIPDB can be a valuable resource for you. How many of your contracted practitioners hold licenses in neighboring states? Are you aware of health care related judgments or convictions against health care practitioners in those neighboring states? If not, the HIPDB provides access to this information.

The HIPDB is a flagging system that serves as an alert to its users that a particular practitioner, provider or supplier may warrant further, more comprehensive review. That is why querying the HIPDB is an important tool in the effort to combat fraud and abuse as well as to promote health care quality and patient safety.

Isn't all this information in the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), you might ask? No, at present, the NPDB does not provide this information on all health care practitioners, providers or suppliers. For example, the NPDB does not include criminal conviction information on home health aides, durable medical equipment suppliers, nurse's aides, medical assistants, speech/language pathologists, social workers, occupational and physical therapists and others.

For a cost of \$4.75 per query, you could have this information to assist you in preventing potential patient harm. It may also save your organization money by helping to avoid affiliations with practitioners and/or suppliers involved with health care fraud and abuse. It is easy to query the HIPDB through the Integrated Querying and Reporting Service (IQRS), and responses are usually received in only a few hours.

Valuable, quick and easy – querying the HIPDB is an important quality assurance tool for any health care organization.