

## Data Bank 101 for Chiropractors: A Guide to the Data Bank and How it Affects You

### Q: *What is the Data Bank?*

**A:** The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) are flagging systems run by the Federal government and jointly referred to as the Data Bank.

The NPDB's information assists State licensing boards, hospitals, and other health care entities in conducting extensive, independent investigations of the qualifications of health care practitioners they seek to license, hire, or grant medical staff membership or clinical privileges. The HIPDB's information identifies health care practitioners, providers, and suppliers involved in acts of health care fraud and abuse.



Section 1921 of the *Social Security Act* expanded the information that the NPDB collects and discloses on chiropractors and other practitioners. It enhances NPDB's ability to serve as a valuable pre-employment and pre-licensing resource for health care entities by collecting negative actions taken against all licensed health care practitioners, including chiropractors. It was formerly limited to physicians and dentists. Implemented on March 1, 2010, Section 1921 is intended to protect beneficiaries participating in *Social Security Act* health care programs from unfit health care practitioners and improve the anti-fraud provisions of these programs.

### Q: *Which Chiropractors Are Reportable to the Data Bank?*

**A:** Licensed Doctors of Chiropractic (DC) who meet the educational and examination requirements established by a state, of any specialization.

### Q: *What is Reportable to the NPDB for Chiropractors?*

**A:** The NPDB retains adverse actions taken against chiropractors, including:

#### Must Be Reported

- Medical Malpractice Payments
- State Licensure Actions
- Other Negative Actions or Findings by State Licensing Authorities
- Medicare/Medicaid Exclusions
- Negative Actions or Findings by Peer Review Organizations and Private Accreditation Organizations May Be Reported
- Clinical Privilege/Panel Membership Actions
- Professional Society Membership Actions

### Q: *What is Reportable to the HIPDB for Chiropractors?*

**A:** The HIPDB retains official actions taken against chiropractors, including:

- Health Care Related Criminal Convictions
- Health Care Related Civil Judgments
- Federal or State Licensure and Certification Actions
- Exclusions from participation in Federal and State health care programs
- Any other adjudicated actions\*

\*Please Note: Other final health care related actions or decisions that are taken by a government agency or health plan, which include a due process mechanism and affects or could affect delivery or payment of a health care item or service, are reportable to the HIPDB.

**Q: Who Has Access to Reported Information?**

**A:** State health care licensing authorities, including Chiropractic Boards, may view Data Bank reports taken against chiropractors. Additionally, hospitals, medical outpatient facilities, and other health care entities with a formal peer review process have access to NPDB-HIPDB reports on chiropractors, and may use the Data Bank to verify a chiropractor's background as part of their credentialing and pre-employment processes. Lastly, professional societies with formal peer review have access to NPDB-HIPDB reports concerning chiropractors.

**Q: Does the Public Have Access to Reported Information?**

**A:** No. Data Bank information is confidential and protected by the *Privacy Act*. The general public cannot query the Data Bank. Researchers may access de-identified information for statistical purposes only.

**Q: What Does It Mean If I Have a Report in the Data Bank?**

**A:** Health care organizations use Data Bank information as part of their licensing, credentialing, privileging, and reviewing processes for health care practitioners. Reports in the Data Bank are not a sole source of information. They should be used as part of an objective and circumspect review process that uses all available resources to make an informed decision to license, credential, or grant privileges to a practitioner.

**Q: How Do I Find Out If There Is a Report on Me in the Data Bank?**

**A:** Whenever the Data Bank receives a new report or a modification to an existing report, the practitioner is sent a notification, along with a copy of the report. You may also query the Data Bank online to verify whether it contains any reports on you. This process is called a *self-query* and can be accessed at [Self-Query](#).

Because of the confidentiality of Data Bank information, self-query requests can be started online, but the full application must be printed, notarized and sent to the Data Bank to verify the requester's identity before the self-query can be completed. Once the self-query is processed, a printable self-query response will be available online.

All self-queries are processed through the NPDB and the HIPDB at a current cost of \$8.00 per data bank, for a total charge of \$16.00 per completed self-query. One official sealed copy will be mailed to you. You may request additional sealed copies at an additional charge of \$16.00 per copy.

**Q: Can I Add a Statement to a Report and/or Dispute the Report's Accuracy?**

**A:** Yes. You may add a 4,000 character statement that informs queriers of your side of the story. Once a statement is processed, the Data Bank forwards it to anyone who made a query about you within the previous three years. Your statement is included with the report when it is disclosed in the future. Instructions for adding a subject statement are on the document you received notifying you of the report and are also outlined on the [Submit a Statement](#) web page.

Also, as the subject of a report, you may dispute the report's factual accuracy or whether it was submitted according to NPDB and/or HIPDB reporting requirements. You must first attempt to resolve the disagreement directly with the reporting organization before you begin the formal dispute process. Instructions for disputing a report are included in the document you received notifying you of the report, and are also outlined on the [Dispute a Report](#) web page.

If you are unable to resolve the dispute with the reporting organization, you may request that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) review the report. This is called Dispute Resolution Review. Disputed reports are reviewed only for accuracy of factual information and to ensure that the information was required to be reported. For instructions on how to request a Dispute Resolution Review, see the [Elevate a Report to Report Review](#) web page.

For additional information or assistance, please contact The Data Bank Customer Service Center at:



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