

Medical Review Panel / Indiana

September 2009

The medical review panel (MRP) is composed of three health care professionals and one attorney who serves as chairman and facilitator but has no voting authority.

The MRP was established in 1975 with the passage of the Indiana Medical Malpractice Act.

The plaintiff and defendant each choose one health care provider; these two providers choose a third. If the defendant is a health care professional who specializes in a limited area of medicine, two of the panelists selected must be from the same field as the defendant.

The side in whose favor the majority opinion is written pays these panel expenses.

The panel opinion must be rendered within 180 days after selection of the last member of the panel.

Though the panel's findings are not legally binding, each panel member can be called upon to provide expert testimony should the case proceed to court for a ruling. The report also is admissible as evidence in any action brought by the claimant.

If a decision is rendered against the health care provider, the Indiana insurance commissioner is responsible for forwarding the health care provider's name to the appropriate board of professional registration and examination for review of the health care provider's fitness to practice his profession.

Comment: It is the opinion of the insurance company claim administrators and defense attorney's that the MRP contributes to an unusually high frequency of claims in Indiana as compared with other states having similar characteristics.

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