

National Practitioner Data Bank

September 2009

The NPDB was established through the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986.

The intent of the NPDB is to improve the quality of health care by encouraging State licensing boards, hospitals and other health care entities and professional societies to identify and discipline those who engage in unprofessional behavior.

The NPDB is a resource to assist State licensing boards, hospitals, and other health care entities in conducting investigations of the qualifications of the health care practitioners they seek to license or hire, or to who they wish to grant membership or clinical privileges.

The information required to be reported to the NPDB is applicable to all health care practitioners who are licensed by the State to provide health care services.

The information contained in the NPDB report is intended to direct discrete inquiry into and scrutiny of specific areas of a practitioner's licensure, professional society memberships, medical malpractice payment history, and record of clinical privileges.

State medical and dental boards must report certain disciplinary actions related to professional competence or conduct taken against the licenses of providers.

Source: *Medical Protective/ Litigation Support: Maintaining your Balance.*

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