

National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Queries

POLICY: It is the policy of the Board of Licensure in Medicine that the Board will electronically query the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) for all MD licensure applications, including Educational Certificates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 10, 1995

REAFFIRMED: March 13, 2012

REVISION DATES: December 14, 2004; September 13, 2011; November 12, 2013

HISTORY: The Assistant Executive Director reported that the current process of initial licensing includes querying NPDB. He reminded the Board that it had voted in April of 1991 to only query the NPDB when exceptional circumstances show that doing so would be prudent and cost-effective.

December 14, 2004: The Assistant Executive Director reported to the Board that, because the Complaint section had previously registered to query both data banks, that action had caused licensing queries to also hit both data banks. The Board affirmed that the licensing queries of both data banks should continue.

As of March 1, 1995 only permanent applications are queried. Temporary licenses will be queried when electronic query capability exists. FSMB data bank queries are done for every application. As of July of 1999, temporary license applications query the NPDB.

September 13, 2011: In 2010 the Federal database reporting system was updated to check both NPDB and HIPDB concurrently for every query. It is also noted that, while the Board reports Physician Assistant disciplines to both databases, no query reports for Physician Assistant disciplines are available. Therefore, staff does not, at this time, query the databases for information on Physician Assistants.

November 12, 2013 NPDB/HIPDB merged effective May 2013. Now NPDB will be the only query for all M.D. licensure applications, including Educational Certificates when the candidate's Maine licensing file is flagged. Query of every license application is automatic. Renewals are queried only if a clarification is necessary.