NPDB Integration

**Primary Source Verification:**

One of the step in the credentialing process which verifies the self-reported information against origination or primary source. This is referred to as Primary Source Verification or PSVs. For example, if an organization is validating a provider’s medical license, the primary source for that piece of data is the state’s medical board or department of health.

**NPDB:**

The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) is an electronic information repository created by Congress. It contains information on medical malpractice payments and certain adverse actions related to health care practitioners, entities, providers, and suppliers.

Federal law specifies the types of actions reported to the NPDB, who submits the reports, and who queries to obtain copies of the reports. Organizations must be authorized according to federal law to submit reports and/or query the NPDB.

Organizations authorized to access these reports use them to make licensing, credentialing, privileging, or employment decisions. Individuals and organizations who are subjects of these reports have access to their own information. The reports are confidential and not available to the public.

**National Practitioner Data Bank API**

The service provides a clearinghouse of confidential information about the professional credentials of doctors, nurses, and other health care providers.

The U.S.-government repository was created by Congress in 1986 as a single source of reports about professional competency in health care, including licensure actions taken against all health care practitioners and health care entities and adverse actions by peer organizations.

The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) provides the Querying and Reporting XML Service (QRXS) to users who wish to send and receive machine-readable responses.

When using the QRXS, you are accessing a U.S. Government information system. System usage may be monitored, recorded, and subject to audit. Unauthorized use of this system is prohibited and subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Each entity has two types of accounts to access the Data Bank, the Entity Data Bank Administrator account and user accounts. The Entity Data Bank Administrator account is used to create and manage the user accounts. User accounts are used to submit transactions and retrieve responses from the Data Bank.

**Software Requirements:**

Frameworks exist for most development platforms, including Java and .NET, to simplify the creation of a web service client. You may use any software you wish to develop your client and to communicate with the QRXS Web Service.

Service standards:

* SOAP 1.2
* Web Services Description Language (WSDL) 1.1
* SOAP Message Transmission Optimization Mechanism (MTOM)

Supported Request Formats

* XML,
* SOAP

**Sending and Receiving Transactions:**

**Send:**

Use the send method to submit transactions to the Data Bank. The send method requires your entity and user identification information as well as one or more SubmissionFiles.

**Notes:**

1. A submission file may be a report, a one-time query, a Continuous Query transaction, or a password change transaction. No more than one password change transaction can be included at any time.
2. The format of the XmlFileData in a submission file depends on the transaction being submitted. Submission formats for QRXS are defined in the Interface Control Documents (ICDs) published by the Data Bank, available on-line at <http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/QRXS>.
3. The XmlFileData in a submission file can be submitted as a MTOM attachment that comes after the soap envelope or as base64 encoded data within the soap envelope.
4. Submissions must not exceed 512 KB.
5. Continuous Query and one-time query submissions must not include more than 1,000 subjects.

The QRXS Web Service returns data from the send method inside of a XmlTransactionResponse.

**Notes:**

1. Some submissions will have confirmations or rejections returned immediately from the Data Bank. These confirmations or rejections will be returned as MTOM attachments.
2. The format of the response data depends on the transaction being submitted. Response formats for QRXS are defined in the Interface Control Documents (ICDs) published by the Data Bank, which is available on-line at <http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/QRXS>.

**Receive:**

Use the receive method to download responses to transactions you have previously submitted. The receive method requires your entity and user identification information.

The QRXS Web Service returns data from the receive method in an XmlTransactionResponse.

**Notes:**

1. The downloaded response files will have unique names.
2. Response files will not exceed 1MB. Responses that are larger than 1MB are separated into multiple response files. Responses for a file-based password change request will always be returned in a single response file. Users should read response files in numerical order.
3. The maximum number of responses that will be returned from the Data Bank in one connection is 1,000. You may download more than 1,000 responses by calling the Receive method multiple times. The number returned in FilesRemaining will indicate if there are additional responses to download.
4. Responses to report, one-time query, and Continuous Query submissions are available for download within an average of 2 to 4 hours after submission. Under certain circumstances, additional processing time may be required.
5. Continuous Query Report Disclosures will be available within one day of a report being received.
6. Responses to file-based password change request submissions are generally available for download within several minutes.

**Status Codes:**

The QRXS Web Service methods always return a status code and status message. A status code of “C00” indicates that the transaction was successful, and any other status code indicates that the transaction failed.

**Querying NPDB:**

A query is a search for information in the NPDB regarding a health care practitioner or organization. The NPDB collects information on medical malpractice payments and certain adverse actions through reports submitted by [entities eligible to report](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/aboutGuidebooks.jsp?page=BWhatIsAnEligibleEntity.jsp). This information is disclosed to [entities eligible to query](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/aboutGuidebooks.jsp?page=BWhatIsAnEligibleEntity.jsp). Organizations must be [registered](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/aboutGuidebooks.jsp?page=BRegisteringwiththeNPDB.jsp) with the NPDB and authorized to query for NPDB information. The ability of an organization to query, and the types of NPDB information they may receive through querying, is determined by [law](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title42/html/USCODE-2011-title42-chap117-subchapII-sec11137.htm). When an entity submits a query, the NPDB only releases the information they are lawfully allowed to access, based on their [NPDB registration](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/aboutGuidebooks.jsp?page=BRegisteringwiththeNPDB.jsp).

**How to Query:**

Organizations can request a query online though the [NPDB website](https://iqrs.npdb.hrsa.gov/), or through external systems using the NPDB's [Querying and Reporting XML Service (QRXS)](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/queryingThroughAnExternalApplication.jsp).

There are two types of query services available through the NPDB website:

* [**Continuous Query**](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/pds.jsp) allows you to receive a query response **and** all new or updated report notifications during the year-long enrollment for each practitioner. The annual enrollment fee of **$3.00** for Continuous Query covers the cost of enrolling one practitioner in the NPDB for one year.
* [**One-Time Query**](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/traditionalQuerying.jsp) allows you to receive a query response for a practitioner or organization. You will not be notified of any new reports submitted to the NPDB after the initial query date. You may query up to 1,000 practitioners and/or organizations at a time. The current fee for each query is **$3.00** per queried practitioner or organization.

**Reporting to the NPDB:**

Reports in the National Practitioner Data Bank are records of actions taken by authorized organizations regarding health care practitioners, entities, providers, and suppliers who do not meet professional standards. Health care organizations must register with the NPDB and be [authorized to report](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/aboutGuidebooks.jsp?page=BDefiningEligibleEntities.jsp) to the NPDB in accordance with the [federal regulations](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/resources/aboutLegsAndRegs.jsp). Reports are permanently stored in the NPDB unless modified or removed by the organization that submitted the report.

[Reportable actions](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/whatYouMustReportToTheDataBank.jsp#reportableActions) include medical malpractice payments and health care-related adverse actions. Guidebook explains the NPDB reporting guidelines.

Reports are submitted online using the NPDB’s secure system, either through the [NPDB website](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/howToSubmitAReport.jsp) or through external applications using the [Querying and Reporting XML Service (QRXS)](https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/hcorg/reportingThroughAnExternalApplication.jsp).