



## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **Health Resources and Services Administration**

#### **National Practitioner Data Bank Continues Temporary Waiver of User Fees for Eligible Entities**

**AGENCY:** Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to its authority under Federal regulations for the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB), HRSA's Division of Practitioner Data Bank announces a continuation of its temporary waiver of user fees for NPDB queries from March 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020, to support our eligible entities in making credentialing, hiring, privileging, and licensing decisions in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. The waiver includes all one-time queries and continuous queries during the waiver time period. Fees for self-queries will not be waived. The NPDB is a confidential information clearinghouse created by Congress and is intended to facilitate a comprehensive review of the professional credentials of health care practitioners, entities, providers, and suppliers. In response to President Trump's declaration of a national emergency and associated emergency declarations by all states, the Federal Government, state governments, and many health care entities have taken unprecedented steps regarding licensure portability and the deployment of health workforce resources, including the expansion of

telemedicine and granting of disaster privileges. HRSA's NPDB is in a unique position to temporarily waive fees, granting NPDB access to the nation's hospitals, health centers, health plans, state licensing boards, Federal agencies, and other eligible health care entities in support of their efforts to mobilize and appropriately deploy health workforce professionals.

**DATES:** The NPDB waiver announcement published on April 17, 2020 (85 FR 21447), was effective retroactively from March 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020. This update continues the waiver through September 30, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David Loewenstein, Director, Division of Practitioner Data Bank, Bureau of Health Workforce, HRSA, (301) 443-2300, NPDBPolicy@hrsa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NPDB will waive fees retroactively from March 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020, for eligible entity queries (one-time query and continuous query). The NPDB will not refund the cost of queries performed prior to the announcement of the waiver, but will issue query credits to reimburse entities for one-time and continuous queries performed and paid for during the waiver period. Regulations regarding the NPDB are codified at 45 CFR part 60.

**Thomas J. Engels,**

*Administrator.*

[FR Doc. 2020-14291 Filed: 7/2/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 7/6/2020]