



National Practitioner Data Bank Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank



FACT SHEET ON THE INTERFACE CONTROL DOCUMENT TRANSFER PROGRAM (ITP)

The National Practitioner Data Bank-Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB-HIPDB) provides the Interface Control Document Transfer Program (ITP) to users who wish to receive machine-readable responses. This interface is ideal for large volume queriers and reporters who use their own transaction processing systems and want to interface those systems with the NPDB-HIPDB. Users must submit American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) text files containing query and report data over the internet through a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) connection; the Data Banks return responses through an SSL connection. File formats for submissions and responses are defined in the Interface Control Documents (ICDs) published by the Data Banks, available on-line. For users who wish to submit Extensible Markup Language (XML) format files containing query and report data to the Data Banks, the Data Banks offer the Querying and Reporting XML Service (QRXS), which is the next generation interface. For more information on the QRXS, see the *Fact Sheet on the Querying and Reporting Service (QRXS)*, available at www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/factsheet.html.

This fact sheet addresses how to use the ITP to submit text files containing query and report data to the Data Banks.

ITP submission files contain the same data required for submitting queries and reports through the Integrated Querying and Reporting Service (IQRS). Likewise, response files return identical information contained in query responses and report verification documents. Since response files are returned in machine-readable ASCII text, users may store response file information electronically. Users wishing to generate paper output similar to that produced through the IQRS must write custom software formatting the response files for print.

The NPDB-HIPDB provides the ITP software free of charge. The ITP program can be executed as a stand-alone program, or used under the control of other programs. The ITP runs under Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows NT 4.0, and Windows XP. Users must have access to the Internet and must be able to submit and receive responses through an SSL connection.

The ITP is easy to install. It is available on-line at www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/itp.html. The Web page provides ITP installation and execution instructions describing each step of the process. The ITP software is available on this page to download. In addition, the ITP requires the Java 2 Runtime Environment (JRE) version 1.5.0 or higher, available as a free download from the Sun Microsystems Java Web site.

ITP Being Phased Out

The ITP is being phased out and replaced with the next generation interface for high-volume queriers and reporters, the QRXS. After August 31, 2009 the Data Banks will no longer develop enhancements to the ITP and will not develop additional ITP interface features for the Proactive Disclosure Service Prototype (PDS). The time table for the phase-out has yet to be defined, so look for upcoming information at www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov.

As the next generation interface, the QRXS offers numerous benefits over the legacy ITP interface. QRXS uses an industry standard XML format that improves the exchange of data between the user and the Data Banks. The QRXS provides real-time data validation. ITP software vendors and users should begin planning to migrate to the QRXS. A test environment is available for software developers and users to validate that their submission files meet the Data Banks' mandatory data requirements and format. Additional information about the QRXS, the test environment, and how to join the QRXS Mailing List is available at www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/qrxs.html.

For additional information, visit the NPDB-HIPDB Web site at www.npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov/itp.html. If you need assistance, contact the NPDB-HIPDB Customer Service Center by e-mail at help@npdb-hipdb.hrsa.gov or by phone at 1-800-767-6732 (TDD 703-802-9395). Information Specialists are available to speak with you weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (5:30 p.m. on Fridays) Eastern Time. The NPDB-HIPDB Customer Service Center is closed on all Federal holidays.