

June 8, 2020

Mr. David Lowenstein, Director
Division of Practitioner Data Banks
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Lowenstein:

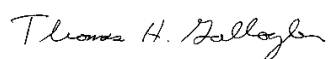
On behalf of the Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement, we are writing to thank you for the NPDB's recent efforts to ensure that the Data Bank does not hinder efforts to expand alternatives to medical liability litigation. Adding the "other" option to the category "payment is result of" may provide crucial data as to the frequency with which alternative forms of claims resolution are being implemented around the nation.

As you are aware, the Collaborative is dedicated to accelerating the spread of medical liability Communication and Resolution Programs (CRPs) to healthcare institutions across the United States to encourage prompt communication between a patient and health care professional when an adverse medical outcome occurs, and to help establish a mutually beneficial resolution for patients and providers alike. Early adopters of these programs have demonstrated significant success in not only reducing litigation, but also in preventing future avoidable adverse outcomes for patients – a true win-win situation for all stakeholders in the health care system.

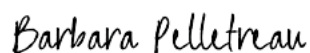
Even with the "other" option noted above, it remains to be seen whether health care professionals' perception that reports to the NPDB are equivalent to a "black mark" on their careers will change, a potentially necessary step in encouraging the expanded use of CRPs. Going forward, we hope to be able to continue a dialogue with the NPDB on this and other issues that could affect both NPDB reporting and the expansion of CRP adoption so that we may further our shared goal of providing the safest health care system possible.

Thank again for sharing the change to the NPDB with us. Should you need any additional information about CRPs at any time, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Thomas Gallagher, MD
Executive Director
*Collaborative for
Accountability
and Improvement*



Barbara Pelletreau, RN, MPH
Co-Chair
Policy Subcommittee



Michael C. Stinson, JM
Co-Chair
Policy Subcommittee