



The Program and Process of EPRN

Doing everything you can to ensure the quality of patient care delivered is paramount to your hospital, medical staff, and community. Your internal peer review process is one aspect of monitoring the quality of care your hospital provides. An opportunity exists to enhance and strengthen your internal program through an External Peer Review Network (EPRN) program. *Here's how the program works:*

Purpose of EPRN

ICAHN has established an External Peer Review (EPR) process to assist hospitals with:

- *Improving the quality of care provided by medical staff*
- *Monitoring the performance of the medical staff*
- *Identifying areas for performance improvement*

The EPR program may be accessed when a hospital's internal peer review process has concluded:

- *There is a conflict of interest for available reviewers*
- *That available reviewers do not have the clinical expertise necessary for peer review*
- *That ambiguous or conflicting findings are present*
- *There is a lack of strong consensus*

Prior to accessing the EPR process, hospitals must have signed the ICAHN EPR Agreement and HIPAA Business Associate Contract. EPR will be completed by a member of a panel of provider reviewers. Panel members are selected based on the following criteria:

- *Active medical staff status at an ICAHN hospital*
- *One (1) year of rural provider experience*
- *Letter of nomination/recommendation from hospital CEO*
- *Completed application verifying credentials, databank requirements and contact information*

THE EPRN PROCESS OF EVALUATION INCLUDES:

1. A hospital completes its internal peer review process and determines an external peer review is needed for a specific medical case.
2. The EPRN Coordinator at the hospital completes the external peer review request form and forwards it (fax or encrypted email) to the ICAHN office.
3. ICAHN selects an EPRN provider panel member to conduct the external peer case review and notifies the EPRN Coordinator at the requesting hospital.
4. The requesting hospital sends a copy of the medical record by certified mail to the provider reviewer's hospital (*attention to the EPRN Coordinator*), along with the external peer review provider report form.
5. The provider reviewer will have (10) working days to evaluate the medical record. Once the provider has completed the review, the medical record is shredded and the external peer review provider report form is forwarded by mail to the requesting hospital.
6. Expedited reviews require a (5) business day turn-around time. Hospitals may consider expedited reviews for possible/pending litigation or for credentialing and practitioner evaluation purposes.
7. The requesting hospital utilizes the case review findings to complete its internal peer review process and to complete the quality review form to be returned to the ICAHN office.

As a member of ICAHN, each routine medical record review is \$175, and each expedited review is \$225.



For NON-ICAHN Members: Purpose and process remains the same. Cost is a flat fee of \$225 per routine review. Expedited reviews can be negotiated with ICAHN. For further information, contact Holly Lendy at (815) 875-2999 or hlendy@icahn.org.

Specialties

Specialties included on the External Peer Review Network provider review panel include:

- CRNA
- OB/GYN
- Radiology
- Pediatrics
- Family Practice
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- Emergency Medicine
- Anesthesia/Pain Management

EPRN panel members will sign a consulting agreement outlining confidentiality and indemnification responsibilities as well as complete an education program prior to conducting medical case reviews.

An ICAHN Network Committee provides ongoing oversight of the program.

For more information on the External Peer Review Network (EPRN), contact Holly Lendy at (815) 875-2999 or hlendy@icahn.org



For more information about ICAHN and its services for small, rural and critical access hospitals, visit www.icahn.org.

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External Peer Review Network

An independent, confidential process that can enhance and strengthen your internal peer review network

