

# Additional Information About AMA Physician Professional Data™

For a century, the American Medical Association (AMA) has been recognized as a trusted source of information on physicians in the United States.

The AMA began collecting information on physicians as early as 1906 for the purposes of membership recruitment and retention activities as well as credentials verification to protect against fraud. The AMA began licensing an extract of its unique database known as AMA Physician Professional Data™, formerly known as AMA Physician Masterfile, to external users more than 60 years ago.

Following are frequently asked questions about AMA Physician Professional Data, which should be read in conjunction with the AMA's [Privacy Policy](#) that governs AMA's treatment of AMA Physician Professional Data.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What kind of physician data does the AMA collect in its AMA Physician Professional Data? Where is the data from?

The AMA collects data on all physicians in the United States who have completed or are completing requirements to practice medicine in the U.S. Through the voluntary cooperation of a variety of data sources such as health-related agencies, institutions, and organizations, AMA Physician Professional Data contains data on both AMA members and non-members including international medical graduates (IMGs) who reside or practice in the U.S.

AMA Physician Professional Data records include historical and current practice data about an individual's education, licensure, specialty, and practice. Demographic, educational, and professional information is obtained from primary sources including medical schools, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited training programs, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), and federal and state agencies.

A physician's current practice information (phone, e-mail addresses, and fax numbers, for example) is obtained from several sources including in many instances directly from physicians or their practices. Readable e-mail addresses are not licensed or sold to any third parties.

### Does AMA Physician Professional Data include prescribing data?

No. The AMA has never compiled, sold, or had access to physician prescribing data. Health care information organizations obtain prescribing data from pharmacies, claims processors, and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and append these data to a variety of data sets about physicians including AMA Physician Professional Data.

### Why does the AMA maintain Physician Professional Data?

AMA Physician Professional Data serves a variety of important public health and safety purposes. The data are used by the AMA and licensed to other organizations for purposes including issuing drug recall notices and health hazard warnings, verifying physician credentials, detecting fraud and abuse, verifying physician information during national disasters, marketing medical journals and continuing medical education (CME) sessions, conducting research related to the medical field, and distributing pharmaceutical product information and samples in accordance with federal regulations.

### Who licenses AMA Physician Professional Data from the AMA?

AMA Physician Professional Data are made available to AMA database licensees under contracts that protect the data and physician privacy. The database licensees then sublicense the data to variety of health care-related companies that offer a wide range of products for physicians and the larger medical community. Some of these products include:

- Medical and professional journals
- CME programs
- Drug samples and pharmaceutical information
- Medical equipment and supplies
- General practice-related commercial offers germane to the practice of medicine.

### How does the AMA help ensure the security of AMA Physician Professional Data?

The AMA employs an in depth, multi-layered approach to enhance data security and mitigate risks, understanding that, while no system can guarantee complete security, proactive measures can significantly reduce vulnerabilities. With independent expert assistance, the AMA routinely assesses its security program, policies, and procedures aligned with NIST CSF Framework guidelines and industry best practices to minimize security threats and to ensure compliance with applicable law, regulations, and industry standards.

### Can a physician view and modify their AMA Physician Professional Data?

Yes. Physicians can access and update their AMA Physician Professional Data information by viewing their AMA Profile [here](#) and submitting a data discrepancy. Educational and licensure information can only be updated upon verification from a primary source.

### Can a physician place limits on the use of their AMA Physician Professional Data?

Yes. Physicians can make choices about how their AMA Physician Professional Data information is used and disclosed. As part of its efforts to protect

the privacy of physician data, the AMA offers a Do Not Contact (DNC) option. Election of the DNC status ensures that the physician's name will not be licensed to database licensees by the AMA for purposes of promotions or marketing to the physician via mail, telephone, fax, social media, or through programmatic marketing. The physician will not receive professional journals, offers to participate in research studies, or CME announcements from AMA Physician Professional Data licensees. The physician will continue to receive health hazard warnings, drug recalls, and AMA-related information, and the records will continue to be released to state licensing boards and hospitals to verify credentials.

Election of the more stringent Do Not Release (DNR) status by a physician means that the AMA will not release any AMA Physician Professional Data about the physician without their consent. The physician will not receive health hazard warnings, drug recall information, or be contacted in case of a national emergency unless the physician has provided written consent. A DNR election also stops AMA's release of AMA Physician Professional Data to state licensing boards and hospitals that use the information to verify credentials unless the physician has provided written permission to release data to a specific organization.

Physicians may choose one of the following contact methods to initiate or lift a DNC or DNR request to the AMA:

Form	Complete and return the <a href="#">appropriate form: Do Not Contact</a> or <a href="#">Do Not Release</a>
Call	(800) 621-8335
Mail	Department of Data Management American Medical Association 330 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 39300 Chicago, IL, 60611 The physician's signature is required on professional letterhead.

The AMA will process a physician's DNC or DNR request immediately upon receipt. Due to the advance purchase of AMA Physician Professional Data, it may take 90 days or more for all end-users to implement a request.

### Can the AMA help physicians restrict the use of their prescribing data by pharmaceutical sales representatives?

Yes. The AMA developed the Physician Data Restriction Program (PDRP) that empowers physicians to restrict access to their prescribing data by pharmaceutical sales representatives. Physicians who want to opt out of having prescribing data released to pharmaceutical sales representatives may request PDRP status by visiting [here](#) or by calling or writing the AMA at the contacts listed above.