



ICAHN External Peer Review Network (EPRN)

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



Program Overview

As an Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network (ICAHN) member, 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.



Program Purpose

ICAHN has established an External Peer Review (EPR) process to assist member 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 member 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. 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

EPRN Process of Evaluation



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 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 or secured electronic transmission 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 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.

Current Specialties Available

ICAHN currently offers reviews from the following specialties:

- CRNA
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Practice
- General Surgery
- Internal Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Radiology



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.

EPRN Cost

ICAHN MEMBERS

Routine Medical Record Review: \$200

Expedited Review: \$250

NON-ICAHN MEMBERS

Routine Medical Record Review: \$250

Expedited Review: Negotiable

For more information, contact Michelle Hansen at mhansen@icahn.org or call (815) 875-2999

Visit icahn.org/services/eprn/