Re ing f N e Di ci line he Na i nal P ac i i ne Da a Bank

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2015, p. E-63). An example of a reportable action within a consent agreement is when the BON issues a probation and the nurse agrees to enter a treatment or rehabilitation program. In this case, the adverse action must be reported, but not the fact the nurse agreed to enter a treatment or rehabilitation program.

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the primary goal of improving health care quality, protecting the public, and reducing health care fraud and abuse in the United States (NPDB, 2015, p. D-1). The public cannot obtain information from the NPDB regarding a nurse. For state licensure actions, the following entities can query the NPDB regarding a specific nurse:

- Hospitals and other health care entities
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the extent to which the BON followed due process procedures. Due process issues must be resolved between the subject nurse and the BON (NPDB, n.d.j). The Dispute Resolution process will only address the factual accuracy of the report and whether it was submitted in accordance with NPDB regulations (NPDB, n.d.k).

M A B

The NPDB's website (http://www.npdb.hrsa.gov) includes a great deal of information for health care professionals. Various infographics and educational guides are available that explain NPDB concepts in a visual format. The *NPDB Guidebook* is also available and provides many examples, clear interpretation of federal regulations, links to definitions, and laws (NPDB, 2015). The NPDB "Policy Corner" provides additional information in a question & answer format (NPDB, n.d.l). The NPDB also provides research and data information, which is presented without any personally identifying information (NPDB, n.d.m). Among the information available are:

- *Research Statistics* – shows the total number of medical malpractice reports and adverse action reports for specific types of practitioners by state
- *Data Analysis Tool* – generates data sets for medical malpractice reports and adverse action reports for the years 1990–2016
- *Public Use Data File* – contains information on specific variables taken from NPDB Adverse Action Reports and Medical Malpractice Payment Reports, and information from reports of Medicare and Medicaid exclusion actions. "This file is updated quarterly and is designed to provide data for statistical analysis only" (NPDB, n.d.m).

B B U

Currently, there are over 5,500,000 nursing licenses, and although most nurses are competent and caring individuals who provide a satisfactory level of care, there were approximately 20,000 reports to the NPDB regarding adverse actions on the licenses of registered nurses (RNs) or practical nurses (PNs) in 2014, 2015, and 2016 (Singh, 2018). Of the 5,500,000 licenses, the rate of adverse actions for RNs and PNs is 0.004 (0.4%). The rate of medical malpractice payments reported to NPDB during the same time period for RNs and PNs is an average of 350 reports per year or 0.00006.

Even though the rate of adverse actions and medical malpractice reports for RNs and PNs is small, health care employers should always confirm the license status before hiring a nurse. However, the presence of a report in the NPDB should not be the singular determinant of whether the nurse is denied employment.

The NPDB website contains information on the specific Dispute Resolution process (NPDB, n.d.i). NPDB also created an infographic, *A Practitioner's Guide to the NPDB*, which briefly describes for the practitioner what the NPDB is and how they can interact with it (Figure 2).

As part of the Dispute Resolution process, the NPDB will not review or address the underlying reasons for the report, such as the appropriateness of or basis for an adverse action report, or

of a health care practitioner. “NPDB information should not be used as the sole source of verification of professional credentials” (NPDB, 2015, p. A-7). This alert suggests that a more comprehensive review of the qualification and background of a health care practitioner is prudent.

After verification of whether a nurse has an adverse action history using either the NPDB query system or Nursys QuickConfirm and thoughtful consideration and review of other materials, the employer can make an informed decision regarding employment with the goal of protecting the public and promoting quality health care.

Originally created to prevent incompetent licensees from moving from state to state without disclosure of previous damaging or incompetence performance, the required reporting to the NPDB of state adverse actions allows the BONs to become aware of other state BON actions for a licensee. This adverse action information is available to all BONs via the private Nursys application. Nursys was implemented in 1999 and is a comprehensive electronic information system that includes collecting and storing a nurse’s personal information, licensing information, disciplinary information, and license verifications. Nurse Practice Acts (NPAs)-7v.238 TD[15 (rractice Ae Ae Aenu.vnd license vera5 (e) licenstmTn6mented ic (-)Tj0.0119ssnitinformatic-22.tlD[(0.5 (r)038 Ttem o (
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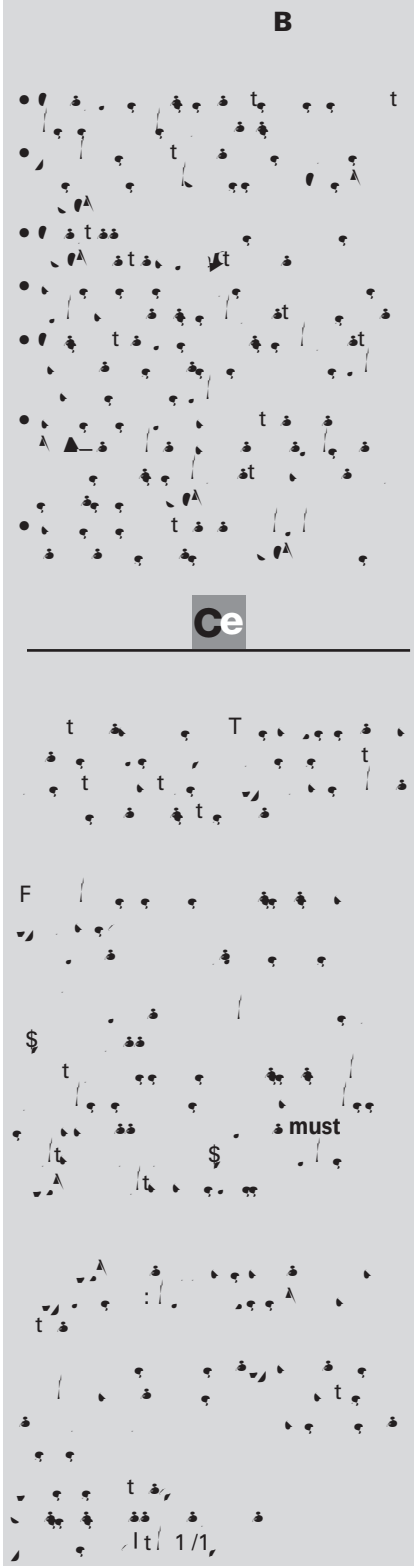

Please circle the correct answer.

1. State regulatory boards maintain public order, health, safety, and welfare through which of the following mechanisms?

2. The Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 was enacted for what purpose?

3. Which of the following statements is true about the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB)?

4. Queriers of the NPDB can obtain information to perform comprehensive reviews of the credentials of health care practitioners, entities, providers, and suppliers.

5. Which of the following is NOT one of the three criteria for reportable adverse state licensure actions?

6. What are some examples of adverse actions taken by a board of nursing (BON)?

7. The NPDB definition of health care practitioners includes imposters.

8. How can adverse state licensure actions be made publicly available?

9. If Jane Smith's initial application is withdrawn while under investigation, is this a reportable state licensure adverse action?

10. Which of the following state licensure adverse actions are always reportable?

11. If the BON issues a probation and the nurse agrees to enter a treatment or rehabilitation program, is the adverse action reported?

12. What is the role of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) for reportable state licensure adverse actions?

13. What happens when a change needs to be made to a report that has already been submitted to the NPDB?

14. All state licensure actions must be reported to the NPDB within what timeframe from the date the action was taken?

15. Which government agency reviews the completeness and accuracy of information submitted to the NPDB?

16. Which of the following entities can NOT obtain information from the NPDB regarding a nurse:

17. Nurse Sally received notice of a report that was uploaded to the NPDB, as the subject of the report. How can Sally respond to the report?

18. How can NPDB data be useful to prospective nursing employers?

19. Adverse actions taken by a BON and reported to the NPDB remain in the NPDB indefinitely.

20. How can a nurse prevent being reported to the NPDB?

( )

1. Rate your achievement of each objective from 5 (high/excellent) to 1 (low/poor).

2. Rate each of the following items from 5 (very effective) to 1 (ineffective):

Name

Mailing address

Street

City

State **Zip**

Home phone

Business phone

Fax

E-mail

Method of payment (check one box)

☐

☐

Mail completed posttest, evaluation form, registration form, and payment to: