

## Recommendations from Past Reports: *Health Database Organization (HDO)*

Recommendation	Report	Implemented?
<p>The committee recommends that health database organizations support and contribute to regional and national efforts to create computer-based patient records.</p>	<p><i>Health Data in the Information Age (1994)</i></p>	
<p>The committee recommends that health database organizations produce and make publicly available appropriate and timely summaries, analyses, and multivariate analyses of all or pertinent parts of their databases. More specifically, the committee recommends that health database organizations regularly produce and publish results of provider-specific evaluations of costs, quality, and effectiveness of care.</p>	<p><i>Health Data in the Information Age (1994)</i></p>	
<p>The committee recommends that a health database organization report the following for any analysis it releases publicly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general methods for ensuring completeness and accuracy of their data;</li> <li>• a description of the contents and the completeness of all data files and of the variables in each file used in the analyses;</li> <li>• information documenting any study of the accuracy of variables used in the analyses.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Health Data in the Information Age (1994)</i></p>	
<p>The committee recommends that, to enhance the fairness and minimize the risk of unintended harm from the publication of evaluative studies that identify individual providers, each HDO should adhere to two principles as a standard procedure prior to publication: (1) to make available to and upon request supply to institutions, practitioners, or providers identified in an analysis all data required to perform an independent analysis, and to do so with reasonable time for such analysis prior to public release of the HDO results; and (2) to accompany publication of its own analyses with notice of the existence and availability of responsible challenges to, alternate analyses of, or explanation of the findings.</p>	<p><i>Health Data in the Information Age (1994)</i></p>	

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<p>To foster the presumed benefits of widespread applications of HDO data, the committee recommends that health database organizations should release non-person-identifiable data upon request to other entities once those data are in analyzable form. This policy should include release to any organization that meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It has a public mission statement indicating that promoting public health or the release of information to the public is a major goal.</li> <li>• It enforces explicit policies regarding protection of the confidentiality and integrity of data.</li> <li>• It agrees not to publish, redisclose, or transfer the raw data to any other individual or organization.</li> <li>• It agrees to disclose analyses in a public forum or publication.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Health Data in the Information Age (1994)</i></p>	
<p>The committee recommends that employers not be permitted to require receipt of an individual's data from a health database organization as a condition of employment or for the receipt of benefits.</p> <p>The committee recommends that an HDO report the following for any analysis it releases publicly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general methods for ensuring completeness and accuracy of data;</li> <li>• a description of the contents and the completeness of all data files and of the variables in each file used in the analyses;</li> <li>• information documenting any study of the accuracy of variables used in the analyses (Recommendation 3.2).</li> </ul>	<p><i>Health Data in the Information Age (1994)</i></p>	