

health care practitioners. These regulations set forth the reporting and disclosure requirements for the National Practitioner Data Bank.

**§ 60.2 Applicability of these regulations.**

The regulations in this part establish reporting requirements applicable to hospitals; health care entities; Boards of Medical Examiners; professional societies of physicians, dentists or other health care practitioners which take adverse licensure of professional review actions; and entities (including insurance companies) making payments as a result of medical malpractice actions or claims. They also establish procedures to enable individuals or entities to obtain information from the National Practitioner Data Bank or to dispute the accuracy of National Practitioner Data Bank information.

[59 FR 61555, Dec. 1, 1994]

**§ 60.3 Definitions.**

*Act* means the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, title IV of Pub. L. 99-660, as amended.

*Adversely affecting* means reducing, restricting, suspending, revoking, or denying clinical privileges or membership in a health care entity.

*Board of Medical Examiners, or Board,* means a body or subdivision of such body which is designated by a State for the purpose of licensing, monitoring and disciplining physicians or dentists. This term includes a Board of Osteopathic Examiners or its subdivision, a Board of Dentistry or its subdivision, or an equivalent body as determined by the State. Where the Secretary, pursuant to section 423(c)(2) of the Act, has designated an alternate entity to carry out the reporting activities of § 60.9 due to a Board's failure to comply with § 60.8, the term *Board of Medical Examiners* or *Board* refers to this alternate entity.

*Clinical privileges* means the authorization by a health care entity to a physician, dentist or other health care practitioner for the provision of health care services, including privileges and membership on the medical staff.

*Dentist* means a doctor of dental surgery, doctor of dental medicine, or the equivalent who is legally authorized to

practice dentistry by a State (or who, without authority, holds himself or herself out to be so authorized).

*Formal peer review process* means the conduct of professional review activities through formally adopted written procedures which provide for adequate notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

*Health care entity* means:

(a) A hospital;

(b) An entity that provides health care services, and engages in professional review activity through a formal peer review process for the purpose of furthering quality health care, or a committee of that entity; or

(c) A professional society or a committee or agent thereof, including those at the national, State, or local level, of physicians, dentists, or other health care practitioners that engages in professional review activity through a formal peer review process, for the purpose of furthering quality health care.

For purposes of paragraph (b) of this definition, an entity includes: a health maintenance organization which is licensed by a State or determined to be qualified as such by the Department of Health and Human Services; and any group or prepaid medical or dental practice which meets the criteria of paragraph (b).

*Health care practitioner* means an individual other than a physician or dentist, who is licensed or otherwise authorized by a State to provide health care services.

*Hospital* means an entity described in paragraphs (1) and (7) of section 1861(e) of the Social Security Act.

*Medical malpractice action or claim* means a written complaint or claim demanding payment based on a physician's, dentists or other health care practitioner's provision of or failure to provide health care services, and includes the filing of a cause of action based on the law of tort, brought in any State or Federal Court or other adjudicative body.

*Physician* means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine or surgery by a State (or who, without authority, holds himself or herself out to be so authorized).