

The National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) now has an option on their reporting form to help clarify that a payment made to a patient through a Communication and Resolution program (CRP) is not a settlement or award resulting from litigation. The new “Other” option on page 6 in response to the “Payment Result of” should be selected when a payment has been made on behalf of a physician through a CRP.

Payments for This Practitioner	
Amount of This Payment (Format NNNNNNNNN.NN):	\$ []
Date of This Payment (MMDDYYYY):	[]
This Payment Represents:	<input type="checkbox"/> A Single Final Payment <input type="checkbox"/> One of Multiple Payments
Total Amount Paid (or to Be Paid) (Format NNNNNNNNN.NN):	\$ []
Payment Result of:	<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Prior to Settlement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Judgment or Settlement, if Any (MMDDYYYY):	[]
Adjudicative Body Name (60 characters):	[]
Case Number (20 characters):	[]
Court File Number (10 characters):	[]

In addition, on page 7 of the form there is a “Description” box to explain the conditions or terms of the payment. Here is suggested language to help make the case resolution clear:

“This payment was made as a result of an early offer made through a Communication and Resolution Program, rather than a settlement or judgment resulting from litigation. [Explain case circumstances]”

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

NPDB

NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK

Description the judgment including any conditions or terms of payment
(Limit 4,000 characters including spaces and punctuation)

Note: Do not include any personally identifying information, such as names, for anyone other than this practitioner.

Your [narrative description](#) helps querying organizations understand more about the payment and why it was made.

Suggested language: “This payment was made as a result of an early offer made through a Communication and Resolution Program, rather than a settlement or judgment resulting from litigation. [Explain case circumstances]”

Using this type of description and the “Other” option will help those using the NPDB in credentialing clinicians to better understand the nature of the payment and the proactive response of the clinician and health care facility to the adverse event.