


Dear Colleagues,

Over the past several years, the Massachusetts Alliance for Communication and Resolution (MACRMI) and the Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement (CAI) have been encouraging the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) to add an option to 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.

There has been a significant step forward as the NPDB form now has an “Other” option to check on page 6 in response to the “Payment Result of:” instead of the “Settlement Judgment or Payment Prior to Settlement” options which existed previously. Now, “Other” 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 NNNNNNNNNN.NN):	\$ <input type="text"/>
Date of This Payment (MMDDYYYY):	<input type="text"/>
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 NNNNNNNNNN.NN):	\$ <input type="text"/>
Payment Result of:	<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> Payment Prior to Settlement <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Date of Judgment or Settlement, if Any (MMDDYYYY):	<input type="text"/>
Adjudicative Body Name (60 characters):	<input type="text"/>
Case Number (20 characters):	<input type="text"/>
Court File Number (10 characters):	<input type="text"/>



In addition, on page 7 of the form there is a “Description” box to explain the conditions or terms of the payment. (The language description box is inaccurate referring only to judgements, but we are working with the NPDB to get that corrected as soon as possible.)

It is suggested that when describing a CRP payment in this box, language such as the following will 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 of 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 healthcare facility to the adverse event.

Thank you,

The Board of the Massachusetts Alliance for Communication and Resolution (MACRMI)