



## INDIANA PATIENT'S COMPENSATION FUND ELECTRONIC FILING FAQs

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Please review the [Certificate of Insurance eFiling Procedures](#) before contacting the PCF with questions not addressed in the FAQs.

### 1) **COI ELECTRONIC FILING SITE SECURITY**

#### a) **How secure is the electronic filing system? What about payment security?**

You may access the State of Indiana's information on security at <http://www.in.gov/core/policies.html>. The policies you are looking for may be found under Security Policy and/or Privacy Policy. Your payment method information is protected using Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology. This means that any private information you give us will be automatically encrypted before it is sent over the Internet.

#### b) **Is payment information saved in the system?**

No. For your security, payment information is not retained by the system and must be re-entered each time you make a payment.

### 2) **CREATING an ACCOUNT – CARRIER, PRODUCER, or SELF INSURED?**

#### a) **Should users register as an insurance carrier or producer? What if a hospital is registering as a self-insured entity?**

There is a difference between account types and the permissions currently allowed for each, but there may only be one Administrator per account. If you are registering your account with an NAIC number, then you are a carrier. As a carrier, you may have as many Carrier

Filers and/or Carrier Payers on the account as needed. Each user should have a unique username and password. Carrier accounts are associated with one specific carrier name and NAIC number.

If you are registering with an Indiana License number, then you are a producer. A producer submits certificates for various insurance carriers and may edit the carrier name and NAIC number fields. A producer account is currently set up to allow only one user per account. A future enhancement may allow a producer account to mirror the rights and privileges currently afforded to carrier accounts.

Hospitals may register as self-insured pursuant to [IC 34-18-4-1\(3\)](#). Self-insured hospitals and entities establishing financial responsibility by means other than insurance must contact the Department at [pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov](mailto:pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov) or 317-232-2401 to discuss filing requirements and have the entity assigned an alternate NAIC number for registration purposes only.

**b) When organizations have multiple NAIC numbers that must be kept separate from one another, can an insurance carrier have more than one account associated with the same name?**

You may only register an account with one NAIC number.

**c) Does an insurance carrier have to go through an approval process to submit PCF Certificates of Insurance?**

The insurance carrier must be admitted or authorized to conduct business in Indiana. You can look up carriers using the [Consumer Inquiry Portal](#).

**d) Can users enter more than one authorized signer name on their account?**

Not at this time.

**3) USER ROLES**

**a) Can you explain each of the user roles available?**

Each user type is defined as the following:

Carrier Admin – This person registers the account. He or she has full account details allowing the Admin to manage other users on the account, review all billing information, and maintain authorized signatures.

Carrier Payer – The Carrier Payer may submit certificates, including via bulk submission, make payments, view previous filings, view credits and reports, and search payments.

Carrier Filer – This role is limited to submitting certificates, including bulk submission, viewing previous filings, and viewing credits and reports. After submitting certificates, the Carrier Filer must add them to the make payments queue for a carrier payer or carrier admin to proceed with payment.

**4) ADMIN MANAGEMENT**

**a) What user role(s) can see and make changes in the Admin Management queue?**

For carrier accounts, only the person who registered the account is designated with the Carrier Admin role. No other users may view or make changes in the queue. Producer accounts currently have only one user, who is the Producer Admin on the account.

**b) What are the benefits and responsibilities of being the designated Admin?**

The Admin user has the responsibility of adding or deleting authorized signers on the account. He or she must also add or delete other users and assign them specific user roles. The Admin will also receive copies of emails regarding payments that are ready to be completed. **The Admin contact information must be kept up to date.** Please contact [pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov](mailto:pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov) for assistance if necessary. The PCF is not responsible for undelivered emails.

**c) When there is more than one person in an organization who should have the Admin rights, how can they also be designated as an admin?**

Once an account has been registered, the initial Admin may designate other users with the Admin role.

**d) Who should be designated as the Admin?**

Whoever registers the account automatically becomes the Admin for the account. This will usually be someone in the organization with some decision-making authority.

**5) FEES**

**a) Is there an additional fee to file electronically?**

No, there is no longer an additional fee to file electronically.

**b) Is there a subscription fee to use the Bulk Submission option?**

No, there are no longer any subscription fees for Bulk Submissions.

**6) PARTICIPATION**

**a) Who can participate in the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund?**

Any entity and/or individual as defined by [IC 34-18-2-14](#) may participate in the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund. Any member of the medical field that is not specifically listed under Indiana Code 34-18-2-14 may not participate on an individual basis, but would need to qualify through the entity that employs the health care provider in accordance with [IC 34-18-2-14](#). This includes students attending a higher education institution for training in health care.

**b) Can federal employees participate in the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund?**

Actions for alleged negligent or wrongful acts or omissions of federal employees come within the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act ("FTCA"; 28 U.S.C. 2671-80; 28 C.F.R. parts 14 and 15; 45 C.F.R. part 35). The Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n), provides FTCA coverage to federally supported health centers and their employees for acts or omissions occurring on or after January 1, 1993, or when the Health Center was deemed eligible for coverage, whichever is later. Under the provisions of the FTCA, an action may not be instituted upon a claim against the United States for money damages caused by the negligent act of any Federal employee acting within the scope of their employment unless the claimant first presents the claim to the appropriate federal agency and the claim is finally denied by the agency in writing and sent by certified or registered mail.

**c) How does an individual or entity become a participant in the PCF?**

The health care provider must first purchase the appropriate underlying limits from an insurance carrier authorized or eligible to conduct business in Indiana, unless a hospital self-

insures or the provider has arranged proof of financial responsibility through cash or a surety bond in accordance with IC 34-18-4-1(2). When insurance is purchased, the insurance carrier or producer determines the surcharge owed and collects the surcharge from the provider. All filings should be made by the insurance carrier or producer.

**d) Where can ISO codes for providers be found?**

Appropriate ISO Codes may be found in [Rule 60](#) and Rule 21 Rates available on the [Medical Malpractice Surcharge Rates and Calculation](#) Sheets page.

**e) Can an out-of-state entity become a qualified provider under the Indiana Medical Malpractice Act?**

Yes, as long as the entity falls within the definition of health care provider under [IC 34-18-2-14\(7\)](#).

**f) How are PCF Certificates of Insurance printed when they are filed electronically?**

At this time, Certificates of Insurance cannot be printed. For credentialing purposes, the credentialing agency or provider may access the PCF database at [IndianaPCF.com](#), search for the provider, and print a confirmation letter associated with a specific policy.

**g) If a health facility "employs" someone with a Professional Employer Organization (PEO), can that person be covered by the health facility's professional liability coverage and the PCF?**

In 2005, Indiana passed a statute addressing PEOs in general ([IC 27-16](#)). Pursuant to [IC 27-16-2-5](#), the person is co-employed by the client (health facility) and the PEO. Under [IC 27-16-7-4](#), the client (health facility) is responsible for the professional acts of the co-employee. However, this responsibility can be altered by specific contract language under [IC 27-16-7-2](#). The individual who is co-employed can be covered by the facility's professional liability coverage and PCF if appropriate under the contract.

**7) LIMITS OF LIABILITY**

**a) What limits must an individual provider/facility carry when participating in the Indiana Patient's Compensation Fund (PCF)?**

Please refer to [IC 34-18-4-1](#).

**b) What if a provider carries higher limits and participates in the PCF?**

Limits of liability for the Indiana exposure are those stated under [IC 34-18-4-1](#). It is the Department's position that if higher limits are maintained those limits must be tendered before a claimant would be eligible to receive excess damages from the PCF and the health care provider would not receive the full benefit of the excess coverage.

**c) Can entities/locations that are owned by the same parent share in the limits of the parent corporation?**

It depends on how the entities are registered with the [Indiana Secretary of State's](#) office. If each entity/location is a separate legal entity, each one will need to maintain separate limits of liability and qualify separately under the PCF. If the entity/location is registered as an assumed name under the parent, the entity/location may share in limits of the parent corporation.

8) **CERTIFICATES – ANCILLARY, INDEPENDENT ANCILLARY & PHYSICIANS**

a) **Is surcharge automatically calculated by the Electronic Filing System?**

Yes. The system is designed to calculate surcharge and any penalties based upon the specialty class code of the provider, effective dates, and any credits or pro-ration you enter. This includes any amended or cancelled certificates that are filed.

b) **The provider ID number entered does not return the correct provider information. How can this be corrected?**

First, confirm what is already on the database at [IndianaPCF.com](http://IndianaPCF.com). It may also be necessary to confirm license numbers through Professional Licensing at [www.in.gov/pla](http://www.in.gov/pla) to ensure accuracy as well. If errors are located, please contact the PCF for further assistance ([pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov](mailto:pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov)). Accuracy is crucial to the system correctly identifying a provider during the initial search process.

c) **When the provider ID number is entered, the following error appears “Provider ID Verification Failed. If this is a new provider enrollment with the PCF, please contact [pcf-coi@idoi.IN.gov](mailto:pcf-coi@idoi.IN.gov) to have provider added to the system.” What type of information must be provided to the PCF in order to get this provider added?**

If you are entering a certificate for a provider that has not previously participated in the Indiana Patient’s Compensation Fund, you must first notify the PCF staff. Please send an email to the email address listed above with the health care provider’s name; license number if an individual, hospital, or nursing home; full **business** address; and ISO (specialty class) code for entry into the PCF database. Once you receive a provider ID from the PCF, you will be able to proceed with filing the certificate.

d) **What if penalties will assess if a new provider is not entered into the PCF database right away?**

Filers should send new enrollments to the PCF at least ten days before surcharge is due.

e) **How is the email address for the provider entered?**

This information is no longer required. Confirmation letters that were previously sent via mail or email by the PCF may now be obtained by the carrier/producer and/or the provider by visiting the PCF database at [IndianaPCF.com](http://IndianaPCF.com), searching by provider, selecting the provider, viewing the policy, and clicking “print confirmation letter”.

f) **What are the class codes/surcharge calculations for health care providers that are not licensed as physicians, nursing homes, or hospitals?**

Health care providers who are **not** licensed as physicians, nursing homes, hospitals, or independent ancillary providers are considered Ancillary Providers and are assessed surcharge at the rate of 100% of the underlying professional liability premium or a minimum surcharge of \$100, whichever is greater. This minimum rate applies to all health care providers. Members of corporations or partnerships and Independent Ancillary Providers (defined under [760 IAC 1-21](#)) **MUST** establish financial responsibility separately from such business entities in accordance with [IC 34-18-4-4](#) and [760 IAC 1-21](#).

**g) Where can the current percentage charged for providers who are not licensed as a physician, nursing home, or hospital be found?**

All other provider surcharges are found at [760 IAC 1-21-8](#). Please review Rule 21 Rates available on the Medical Malpractice Surcharge Rates and Calculation Sheets page.

**h) Is there a fine for entering a certificate incorrectly? If a user has enrolled in the Unlimited or Bulk options, will there still be fines?**

There are no fines for errors on a certificate. However, please be aware that if you do not file the certificate within the statutory timeframe, the usual penalties may be assessed. *Please do not wait until the last possible day to file a certificate, as system traffic may cause the filing to attach to the PCF database late, which may cause a penalty to assess.*

**i) Can the credits allowed in [Rule 60](#) be applied on non-physician surcharges?**

Part-time credits can be applied to physicians and independent ancillary providers, as provided in [760 IAC 1-21-8\(4\)](#). Independent ancillary providers may not claim any other credits. Surcharges for ancillary providers who are not independent ancillary providers are calculated on a percentage of premium; therefore, any discounts given on the underlying coverage would already be accounted for when calculating the surcharge amount.

**j) Can providers with individual limits take multiple credits, and is there a limit on such credits?**

Multiple credits (discounts) are NOT allowed. The insurer may apply the greatest credit applicable.

**k) How is a "newly licensed" physician calculated in relation to credits?**

Newly licensed physicians can claim credits for the first two years of practice (the first two policy years). These credits do not apply to a physician who went back to school and changed specialties or who moved to Indiana after practicing in another state.

**l) Is part-time rating applicable to the number of hours worked in Indiana only?**

Yes.

**m) When can the medical school faculty credit be applied?**

The Medical School Faculty credit of 67% can only be applied if the physician is engaged in research or teaching at a medical school as defined in [IC 25-22.5-1-1.1\(h\)](#). To be eligible for the credit, no more than thirty percent (30%) of the physician's time may be spent treating patients whose treatment is unrelated to the physician's duties at the medical school.

**n) When is surcharge due to the PCF, and what penalties are assessed for untimely filing?**

Please refer to [Bulletin 147](#). Please be aware of the following penalties for late filing of PCF Certificates of Insurance that are due in addition to surcharge. The penalty will be calculated for you automatically and will appear next to the surcharge amount on the Manage Certificates page. The penalty will increase if the certificate crosses a penalty threshold while you are waiting to submit payment.

Surcharge received by the insurer, risk manager, or surplus lines producer more than 30 days before payment is remitted to the PCF = 10% of surcharge amount.

*In addition to the above penalty:*

Filings received	91 to 120 days from the policy effective date	10%
Filings received	121 to 150 days from the policy effective date	20%
Filings received	151 to 180 days from the policy effective date	50%

**o) Will the electronic filing system alert users when they enter something incorrectly?**

If the system recognizes an error, you will be alerted with an error message in red explaining the reason for the error when you violate a business rule. However, data entry errors will not necessarily trigger an error code. Please verify that you have entered all the information correctly before continuing or submitting information. **When entering filings manually, it is recommended that you disable autofill: autofill may overwrite your entries creating significant, time-consuming errors in the database.** Penalties caused by inaccurate filings will not be waived by the PCF.

**p) The following message was received after filing: “Certificate has been marked for Agency Approval.” What does this mean?**

You received this message because there is something on the certificate making it necessary for agency personnel to review and either approve or reject the certificate. You will be notified via email once this is completed. The certificate is reflected as Pending Status on your Manage Certificates page until it is approved, and will then automatically route to the Make Payments queue for payment. If the certificate is rejected, it will automatically be deleted and you will receive a notification email. If your certificate is marked with a ‘P’ in your Manage Certificates queue but you have not received an email, please contact [pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov](mailto:pcf-coi@idoi.in.gov) as it may be necessary to update the contact information on your account.

**q) How will emergency room groups and physician-owned facilities be rated?**

Physicians will need to pay the surcharge for their appropriate class, with any allowable credits. This must be done separately from facilities or practices that they may own, in whole or in part. Facilities that are not specifically licensed as nursing homes or hospitals pay surcharge at a rate of 100% of the underlying premium.

**r) Can physicians who are employed by ER Groups/Physician Owned Facilities share in the limits of the group or facility?**

No, per [760 IAC 1-21-10\(c\)](#).

**s) Does a physician’s license have to be listed with an “inactive” status with the Professional Licensing Agency to qualify for the retired credit with the PCF? What is the PCF’s definition of retired status?**

Yes. Pursuant to [I.C. 25-22.5-6-1](#), retired status means that the provider has ceased to practice. If the provider is volunteering for any amount of time without compensation, and without prescriptive authority, then the provider is still considered retired and may use the retired credit option. If there is any compensation for the volunteer work or the provider will write prescriptions, the provider is no longer considered retired and should notify Professional Licensing.

**9) SURPLUS LINES AND ALIEN CARRIERS**

- a) **Who is responsible for making the filings to the PCF if coverage is written through an eligible surplus lines carrier or an alien insurer included in the most recent version of the NAIC's [Quarterly Listing of Alien Insurers](#)?**

PCF Certificates of Insurance and surcharge payment must be remitted by a licensed Indiana surplus lines producer. The "Authorized Signature" field must match the name of the licensed Indiana surplus lines producer. When submitting a new or renewal certificate using a surplus lines or alien carrier, the certificate will be routed to the agency for approval. You will receive an email notification advising whether the certificate has been approved or rejected.

- b) **If coverage is issued through an authorized surplus lines or alien carrier, is the agent required to remit tax on the surcharge amount due?**

No tax is due on the surcharge amount.

### **10) PROVIDERS – MULTIPLE POLICIES**

- a) **How is surcharge calculated for a provider who holds multiple policies?**

The agent/insurance carrier for the second policy would have to determine how the provider is currently qualified with the PCF. If the second policy that is being reported for proof of financial responsibility is at a lower classification than the first, then the minimum \$100 surcharge will be assessed. An amended PCF Certificate of Insurance should be filed reflecting that fact. If the second policy is at a higher classification than the first, the difference between the higher classification surcharge and the lower classification surcharge will be calculated with the difference due, and you will be asked to include a change reason and effective date. Any second policy is to be in addition to the hours reported on the first policy, if the first policy was part time. Therefore, if the first policy is part time, a \$100 minimum cannot be paid for the second policy. Surcharge must be paid to bring the first policy into full-time status.

- b) **What about a physician who has more than one specialty?**

If a physician is practicing two different specialties, the surcharge rate paid should be the higher of the two.

### **11) LOCUM TENENS**

- a) **How are filings made for a locum tenens physician?**

A filing can be made two ways. First, a physician can purchase coverage for a year and take the applicable credits; or second, a PCF Certificate of Insurance could be filed for each assignment the physician is working. Please keep in mind that if a PCF Certificate of Insurance is filed for each locum tenens assignment and underlying coverage is claims-made, the PCF requires that a reporting endorsement also be filed at the same time as the assignment certificate.

- b) **How is surcharge calculated for locum tenens physicians?**

As with all other filings, the system is designed to calculate surcharge based upon the effective dates that are entered. If the policy is less than a year, then you will be asked to confirm whether this is a pro-rated or locum tenens policy. If the calculation comes to less than \$100, the system will default to the \$100 minimum surcharge.

**12) REPORTING ENDORSEMENT (TAIL COVERAGE)**

**a) What surcharge is assessed for reporting endorsements (tail policies) for hospitals, nursing homes, and physicians falling under [Rule 60](#)?**

The minimum surcharge is currently \$100 for hospitals, nursing homes, and Rule 60 physicians (including locum tenens) for each reporting endorsement issued.

**b) What surcharge and rating methodology will apply to reporting endorsements (tail policies) for providers not licensed as a physician, nursing home, or hospital?**

Ancillary providers pay reporting endorsement surcharge at 100% of the underlying reporting endorsement premium.

**c) What happens if a locum tenens physician moves to another carrier that elects to pick up prior acts?**

A reporting endorsement from the new carrier is required reflecting the beginning date of the first assignment and the ending date of the last assignment with the previous carrier, with the understanding that the new reporting endorsement will only cover the dates reflected on each assignment certificate. The reporting endorsement filed by the new carrier will cancel out all previous endorsements under the previous carrier name. The \$100 minimum surcharge must be remitted.

**d) Does the PCF prohibit companies from offering limited tail?**

The PCF does not prohibit limited tail, but the company must file the reporting endorsement reflecting the date for which prior acts coverage is to begin through the date that reporting endorsement will expire. The company must also notify the PCF at least thirty days prior to the expiration of the reporting endorsement, by filing a PCF Certificate of Insurance indicating the effective date of expiration. If the company fails to notify the Department in the above manner, the PCF will hold the company liable for any claims filed after the expiration date of the reporting endorsement, per [IC 34-18-13-4](#).

**e) Does a reporting endorsement need to be submitted to the PCF for a physician who shares in the limits of the hospital under a claims-made policy and leaves or his/her employment?**

No. The provider would continue to be covered under the PCF as long as the hospital continues to pay surcharge as a qualified provider. Please note that when a complaint is first filed, the Department may initially indicate the physician is not qualified, until a signed statement from the risk manager of the hospital is submitted stating that the physician was an employee at the time of the occurrence and that the appropriate amount of surcharge was paid to include the physician under the hospital's coverage.

**f) Does a reporting endorsement need to be filed for a physician going from individual limits to shared limits of a hospital?**

Yes. A physician who does not purchase tail coverage for the individual policy will not be considered qualified for any claims filed after the expiration date of the individual coverage.

**g) Are electronic signatures acceptable on PCF Certificates of Insurance?**

Electronic signatures are acceptable on those certificates filed electronically. You are required to enter an authorized signer's name when you register your account. This is the

name of the person responsible for the filing. If you are filing an amended or cancellation certificate for a certificate previously filed via paper, electronic signatures are not acceptable.

### **13) CERTIFICATES – HOSPITALS**

**a) Can users submit a certificate for a hospital electronically? How do users send in the hospital worksheet formerly used for calculating surcharge?**

Yes. Specific provider information will appear in the electronic system once the hospital's license number has been enrolled. For hospitals, the user will complete an electronic worksheet for the system to calculate surcharge. At this time, hospitals and nursing homes may not be entered via the Bulk Submission option.

**b) Are independent ancillary providers required to obtain separate limits per [760 IAC 1-21-10\(c\)](#) if employed by a hospital?**

No. An independent ancillary provider only requires separate limits if he or she is employed by an entity other than a hospital or nursing home (such as a corporate entity). Additionally, institutions of higher education may include optometrists, pharmacists, and/or dentists acting within the scope of their employment as faculty members.

**c) May a hospital provide coverage to physicians and surgeons on its policy?**

Hospitals may cover **employed** physicians within the limits of the hospital's liability for exposures arising from such employment. Such hospitals must have this exposure calculated into the hospital's surcharge, by use of the employed physician rate, as set out in the Department's hospital worksheet. Self-insured hospitals and/or their producers must conduct an audit on a quarterly basis by tracking all additions and/or deletions of employed physicians or other significant changes to exposures most recently filed with the IPCF. Coverage only applies to employed physicians acting within the scope of their employment.

**d) Can individuals who are classified as residents or fellows share in hospitals limits even though they do not fall within the definition of "Employed Physician" found in [760 IAC 1-21-2\(6\)](#)?**

Yes. Because of the unique nature of the relationship between institutions, such as universities and hospitals, and residents and fellows, the Department will allow residents and fellows to share the institution's limits with regard to activities associated with the residency or fellowship. This policy was promulgated in [760 IAC 1-21-10\(8\)\(h\)](#). However, to share in the institution's limits fellows must participate in a full-time fellowship with no additional practice, except for part-time "moonlighting" work. Residents and fellows should check with the institution to determine the institution's practice and protocols regarding professional liability insurance for residents and fellows.

**e) Can the credits available for health care providers identified under [Rule 60](#) be taken for physicians sharing in the limits of a hospital?**

The credits available per [Rule 60](#) may be applied to the annual surcharges for physicians identified under [Rule 60](#). Please note that only one credit can be applied for each physician.

**f) What are the discounts for hospitals with risk management programs?**

There is no discount for hospital risk management programs. Hospitals **without** a risk management or quality assurance program must pay a penalty.

**g) What defines an acceptable risk management program?**

Any program meeting the licensing requirements of the [Indiana Department of Health](#) will be considered acceptable for purposes of surcharge calculation.

**h) Where can the current surcharge rates for hospitals be found?**

Please refer to the most current Bulletin issued by the Commissioner under the [Insurance Laws & Bulletins](#) section of the IDOI website.

**i) Can entities affiliated with a hospital share in the hospital limits?**

Only the entities listed on the hospital's Department of Health license application can share in the limits of the hospital. If an entity is not listed on the hospital's Department of Health license application, the entity must obtain its own limits unless the entity listed is strictly a DBA of the hospital and not a separate legal entity. The following are steps that can be taken to make this determination:

*Check to see how the facility/entity is licensed using the following websites:*

Indiana Department of Health: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/reports/QAMIS/hosdir/index.htm>

Indiana Professional Licensing Agency: <https://mylicense.in.gov/EVerification/Search.aspx?facility=Y>

Indiana Secretary of State: [https://secure.in.gov/sos/bus\\_service/online\\_corps/name\\_search.aspx](https://secure.in.gov/sos/bus_service/online_corps/name_search.aspx)

If the facility or entity is licensed as a hospital, check the following website to identify all facilities listed on the hospital license application with the Indiana Department of Health to determine which locations may share in the limits of hospital:

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/reports/QAMIS/hosdir/index.htm>

If the facility or entity is not listed on the hospital application with the [Indiana Department of Health](#) or does not hold a license as a hospital, the entity must obtain separate limits; therefore, conduct a search of the [Indiana Professional Licensing Agency](#) first and then the [Secretary of State](#) to determine how the entity is licensed/authorized.

IF THE FACILITY OR ENTITY IS NOT LISTED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE WEBSITES, then determine whether the name given is a DBA of the hospital/entity. If the name is listed as a DBA, the name must be reported to the PCF for coverage to be afforded to the DBA in accordance with [760 IAC 1-21-10](#).

Indiana PCF Submission: Must be submitted as an ISO code 80999 if the entity does not hold a hospital or nursing home license.

Indiana PCF Submission: Must be submitted as an ISO code 90000 (hospital) and 80923 (nursing home) if the entity does hold a hospital or nursing home license from the Indiana Department of Health.

**j) If a hospital becomes the license holder for a nursing home, but a previous license holder (nursing home) manages the facility, including the employment of personnel, what is the proper way to qualify all of the entities?**

In the scenario that has been most frequently presented to the PCF, the hospital receives a nursing home license separate from its license to operate a hospital. The former license holder continues to manage the nursing home's daily operations, through a contract with the hospital license holder. The hospital holds a separate license for the nursing home; it is not listed as an additional location on the hospital's hospital license. The remainder of this answer assumes such a scenario and refers to the former license holder as the management company.

Each separate legal entity must qualify separately into the PCF and hold separate limits of liability. The parties can decide whether they share an underlying insurance policy\*\* or hold separate ones, so long as each entity holds separate limits of liability in the proper statutory amounts. Either entity may be the first named insured.

The hospital's limits of liability for the nursing home should be determined by the size of the facility. The management company would be considered an Other Health Care Provider/Ancillary Provider.

The hospital's liability limit for the nursing home should also be separate from its liability limit for its hospital exposure, unless the hospital is self-insured. **Self-insured entities cannot provide coverage to any other entity.**

i) **Can the management company qualify with the PCF?**

Yes. As long as it is organized or registered under Indiana law, that as one of its functions, provides health care, and it is determined to be eligible for coverage as a health care provider under *Ind. Code* 34-18 for its health care function, the management company would fall under the definition of a health care provider found in [IC 34-18-2-14\(7\)](#).

ii) **Who is responsible for paying surcharge to the PCF?**

Surcharge must be paid for each entity if it is to be considered a qualified health care provider and enjoy the benefits of Indiana's [Medical Malpractice Act](#). The PCF does not dictate who is responsible for making payment of the surcharge.

iii) **What surcharge applies?**

If the nursing home operates under a nursing home license, it should be qualified using the nursing home calculation sheet to calculate surcharge. If the hospital includes the nursing home in its hospital license, the nursing home should be qualified using the hospital worksheet to calculate surcharge. A corporation pays 100% of its underlying premium for qualification.

(1) **Example**

- (a) Previously, NursingHome Corp owned a nursing home, Great Care, with 150 beds, held the license, and managed its operations. Now, County Hospital holds the license. Under a contract, Nursing Home Corp manages the operations of the nursing home for County Hospital, including employing the staff of the nursing home. Staff members include Independent Ancillary Providers (IAPs). County Hospital now holds the nursing home license separate from its hospital license. Both NursingHome Corp and County Hospital wish to be qualified health care providers.
- (b) County Hospital, or its insurer, will file a PCF Certificate of Insurance for Great Care. Its surcharge will be determined by using the nursing home bed rate. The liability can be covered under the same policy as County Hospital's hospital liability, but the hospital's annual aggregate is separate from the nursing home's aggregate.
- (c) NursingHome Corp, or its insurer, will file a PCF Certificate of Insurance as an Other Health Care Provider/Ancillary Provider. Its surcharge will be 100% of the underlying premium. If NursingHome Corp is an additional insured on County Hospital's policy, surcharge is 100% of the additional premium attributable to the additional insured. The \$100 statutory minimum applies. The liability can be covered under the same policy as County Hospital's, but

NursingHome Corp's annual aggregate is separate from the nursing home's annual aggregate.

- (d) Because NursingHome Corp qualifies as an Other Health Care Provider, its IAP employees must be separately qualified into the PCF and have separate underlying limits of liability.
- (e) Either County Hospital or NursingHome Corp can pay the surcharge for either entity.
- (f) If County Hospital qualifies but NursingHome Corp does not, NursingHome Corp is not a qualified health care provider, and the Medical Malpractice Act's limits on damages do not apply to claims against NursingHome Corp.
- (g) If NursingHome Corp qualifies but County Hospital does not, County Hospital is not a qualified health care provider for claims of malpractice occurring at the nursing home, and the Medical Malpractice Act's limits on damages do not apply to claims against County Hospital.

#### **14) CERTIFICATES – NURSING HOMES**

**a) Do nursing homes owned by the same entity have to maintain separate limits?**

Yes, if each of the facilities is separately licensed through the Department of Health then separate limits must be maintained. This can be determined from the [Indiana Department of Health website](#).

**b) How is surcharge calculated for nursing homes?**

Nursing homes pay a per bed rate as set out under [760 IAC 1-21-8.5](#). The nursing home calculation worksheet is part of the electronic filing process and the information that is entered is used to calculate surcharge.

**c) What ISO Code is utilized when qualifying a nursing home with the PCF?**

80923.

**d) Are independent ancillary providers required to obtain separate limits per [760 IAC 1-21-10\(c\)](#) if employed by a nursing home?**

No. An independent ancillary provider only requires separate limits if he or she is employed by an entity other than a hospital or nursing home.

**e) If a hospital holds the license for a nursing home, but a previous license holder manages the facility, including the employment of personnel, what is the proper way to qualify the entities?**

Please refer to the Hospital section of the FAQs at [Hospitals](#) .

#### **15) DBAs**

**a) Do DBAs have to be reported on the health care provider's PCF Certificate of Insurance filed with the PCF to be afforded coverage?**

Yes, per [760 IAC 1-21-10\(b\)](#), if a physician operates under a DBA, he should report the DBA on his PCF Certificate of Insurance. However, including a DBA on a PCF Certificate of Insurance does not allow an individual to include employees. A sole practitioner physician must organize or register an entity under state law and qualify the entity in the PCF to obtain coverage for employees. Further information on informal business associations

may be obtained at <https://inbiz.in.gov/BOS/home/index>. *However, any separate legal entity must have independent coverage.*

**b) Is a \$100 minimum surcharge owed for each DBA added to the health care provider's filing?**

No, this is not a per DBA surcharge amount. Appropriate surcharge, subject to the \$100 minimum, is owed for each PCF *Certificate of Insurance* filing adding DBAs after the initial or renewal certificate has been filed. Multiple DBAs can be included on a certificate, but only \$100 will be owed. Please refer to [760 IAC 1-21-10\(b\)](#).

**c) Is it necessary that an assumed business name be registered with the Indiana Secretary of State to be recognized as a qualified health care provider?**

No. The PCF allows a business that is known by an alias and not organized or registered under Indiana law to include the DBA so the businesses can avoid unnecessary litigation regarding qualification.

For example, John Smith, M.D., may have a sign on the door that says "Smith's Medical Clinic." Dr. Smith is a sole proprietor who does not have a corporation and is not registered with the County Recorder, and *does not wish to cover employees*. Smith's Medical Clinic could be appropriately added as a DBA on Dr. Smith's PCF Certificate of Insurance.

If Smith's Medical Clinic is registered as a corporation with the Secretary of State, then it needs to qualify with the PCF separately from Dr. Smith.

If Dr. Smith has employees who he wants to be covered under Smith's Medical Clinic, then the entity must be organized or registered under Indiana law. Please refer to the Secretary of State's website at <https://inbiz.in.gov/BOS/home/index> for more details on this process.

**d) Can DBAs be reported under a hospital if not listed as a facility operating under the hospital license as indicated under [760 IAC 1-21-10\(a\)](#)?**

Please refer to the Hospital section of the FAQs at [Hospitals](#).

**16) AMENDING OR CANCELLING CERTIFICATES**

**a) If a filing for a provider is submitted on a paper certificate, can it still be amended or canceled electronically?**

All paper filings must be amended or cancelled via paper. You may only amend or cancel a filing electronically if the new or renewal filing was entered electronically. Please note that if an amended or cancelled paper filing results in return surcharge, this credit will be placed on your current eFiling account with the PCF.

**b) How can users amend or cancel a certificate electronically?**

Manual Entry: The original certificate will appear after clicking "File an Amended/Cancellation Certificate" in the Submit a Certificate queue and entering the search information. Once you find the Certificate, click either Amend or Cancel to proceed. Some fields may be modified, such as provider name and address, policy effective dates, retro date and premium. Click continue and then enter the effective date of the change and the change reason. Clicking continue and verifying will move the certificate to the Manage Certificates page. You may continue entering additional certificates before proceeding with payment.

*Bulk Submission:* The bulk submission upload will begin to calculate the surcharge for each record on the spreadsheet. This could take anywhere from an hour to several hours to complete. Once the submission is ready for payment, the user will receive an email to proceed.

**c) How can users report a cancellation with 30 days' prior notice to the Commissioner? Carriers and producers are rarely notified of a cancellation until the last minute or after an effective date. Is this a new requirement for the PCF?**

Paragraph 3 on the bottom of the Certificate includes notice that 30 days' prior notice must be received for cancellations or reductions in liability for a policy. This 30-day notice requirement is statutory pursuant to [IC 34-18-13-4](#).

**d) How does an insurer handle return of surcharge issues?**

Insurers that return premium due to cancellation or other reason should also return the applicable surcharge. Once a certificate is filed and paid electronically, then the credit will appear on the user's account. Under [IC 34-18-5-2\(e\)](#), the PCF is to collect \$100 as a minimum surcharge, even if a provider's surcharge calculation results in a lesser amount. Minimum surcharge should always be considered "earned" for purposes of return of surcharge. Surcharge amounts beyond the minimum are not refunded, but placed as a credit on the user's account.

**e) How should credit be used on future filings?**

The current available credit on an account can be viewed in the Credits & Reports queue. The user then has the option of applying any portion of the available credit during the checkout process during the next payment to the PCF. The PCF will not issue a refund in place of a credit.

**17) PAYMENTS/SEARCH PAYMENTS**

**a) How long do users have to complete a payment?**

Payment must be completed by 6:00 p.m. on the business day following the day the payment process began. Holidays and weekends are not considered business days. This policy is the same for all payment options. If a payment is not completed by the deadline, then the payment is removed and the certificates go to the Submit a Certificate queue to begin the process again. **Please note that you only have 10 days from entry to pay for a certificate or it will become unavailable for payment.** Payment for a certificate may fail if a penalty threshold is passed between the date of filing and attempted payment. The certificate may also fail if it does not meet the 30-day notice requirement ([IC 34-18-13-4](#)) or 180-day late-filing limit ([IC 34-18-3-5](#)).

**b) What happens if users begin the payment process for either manually entered or bulk certificates but do not complete it?**

All payments that are initiated are assigned a Payment ID number. You may locate this payment in the Search Payments queue, where you have the option of paying or removing it. Removing means only that the payment is removed; the certificates will then go back to the Make Payments queue to be reselected later.

c) **How long does it take after users upload the bulk submission form before they can complete the payment?**

This time will vary, depending on website traffic and the number of certificates contained in the upload. You are encouraged not to wait until the last day or two to upload the form as the processing time may cause a filing to be late, for which penalties may accrue.

d) **What form of payment is accepted on the electronic system?**

The only forms of acceptable payment are Visa, MasterCard, or ECheck. A credit card payment will incur an additional fee that is charged at a percentage of the total payment. If paying by ECheck, you must enter your routing number and account number. To ensure that your payment will process successful, you will need to notify your financial institution of the ACH ID number 935600015E. If you fail to provide this number to your institution and your payment is refused, then you may incur an additional returned payment fee in addition to any other applicable penalties for late payments.

e) **How long does it take the ACH payment option to debit a checking account?**

ACH payments usually complete within 3 – 5 business days.

### **18) PREVIOUS FILINGS**

a) **When clicking on View Previous Filings, the certificate cannot be found.**

If you entered a certificate, but have not yet paid for it, either it will be in the Manage Certificates page under Submit a Certificate, or it will be in the Make Payments queue. **A certificate is not considered “filed” until successful payment has been made and it has attached to the PCF database; this also applies to amendments/cancellations for which you anticipate returned surcharge.** If you have successfully submitted and paid for the certificate, then by providing the search information, you should be able to locate the certificate in the Search Payments queue.

b) **The necessary information has been entered into the search criteria fields, but the certificate that has been filed cannot be located.**

Make sure that any certificates you are trying to locate on the system have been filed electronically. Certificates submitted via paper cannot be found on the electronic filing system. Please search further at [www.IndianaPCF.com](http://www.IndianaPCF.com) to verify that the certificate appears on the PCF database.

### **19) CREDITS & REPORTS**

a) **When users have credits with the PCF, can they request a refund?**

The PCF does not issue refunds; returned surcharge is credited to your eFiling account for your future use. You have the option of transferring all or some of the credit to another eFiling account; email [PCF-COI@idoi.in.gov](mailto:PCF-COI@idoi.in.gov) to request a credit transfer.

b) **Can users see how their credit has been used or applied on the account?**

Yes. Return surcharge will be indicated by the amount in parentheses, and credit that is being used will be listed as a regular charge. Your total available amount of credit will be shown in the top left portion of the screen. You may also export this information into an Excel spreadsheet.

## **20) BULK SUBMISSION**

### **a) What file type do we need for Bulk Submission?**

This form is provided for you in an .xls format (Excel) available on the electronic filing system or by clicking the link for the [spreadsheet](#). Please verify that the document is saved as Excel 97-2003 Workbook (\*.xls) and not another version.

### **b) Is the spreadsheet sent directly to the PCF via the email address listed on the Welcome (log in) page?**

No. The form should be uploaded via the website by clicking on Bulk Submission and following the instructions for completion.

### **c) What happens if the system detects an error while checking the entries? Will the whole submission be considered “failed”?**

You will have the option to edit or delete certificates with errors and upload them again. Once a certificate has failed, it cannot be included in the same bulk submission payment as those that were successful. Certificates that are edited go directly to the Submit a Certificate (Manage Certs) queue for manual payment processing.

### **d) Is there a minimum or maximum character length for any of the fields? For example, a provider’s license # is eight (8) numbers and does not include an alpha character, but would there be a limit for the provider name?**

There are character limits for some fields; they are identified on the Bulk Submission File Upload document. Hover over each column heading to see more information.

### **e) What is the COI Confirmation Number and how can it be found? Is this an optional field?**

This number is for those who are adding amendments/cancellations to their bulk submission after surcharge payment has been received for the original filing and the certificate has attached to the PCF database. The COI Confirmation Number can be viewed by clicking the Payment ID Number associated with the original filing or by searching at IndianaPCF.com. This is an optional field unless you are filing an amendment or cancellation

### **f) Is the Surcharge Received date also an optional field?**

The entry will be processed with this field blank, but this field should be completed if the filing is made 30 or more days after the effective date.

### **g) Please explain the Surcharge Credit Type. For example, is the OVER 25 UNDER 31 the 25% part-time credit?**

Yes. If the provider has a credit, then you would enter a code number associated with the credit from the instructions sheet of the Bulk Submission File.

### **h) Will you further explain the three fellowship credits, Codes 13, 14 & 15?**

Please see [760 IAC 1-60-5](#) for a full definition of the three fellowship credit options.

Code 13 = Full-time (and engaged in no other practice) 50% credit;

Code 14 = full-time surcharge for medical practice outside fellowship; and

Code 15 = 50% of surcharge due for specialty class of fellowship.

**i) Why are some of the column headings highlighted in green?**

These fields are highlighted to inform you that they are optional fields and do not require an entry for the filing to process.

**j) What should be entered for the premium amount? Is this the amount of the surcharge?**

The carrier's underlying premium amount should be entered here. An amount must be entered, even if it is \$0.00. The system will automatically calculate surcharge after the certificates have been successfully uploaded.

**k) What should be entered as the Certificate Type for a Reporting Endorsement (tail) policy?**

A reporting endorsement is a Certificate Type 1 (New Filing), and Policy Type ID 3 (Reporting Endorsement).

**l) Please explain in more detail the Organization Name, and Individual or Organization Code.**

If you enter "Organization" in column V, then you must enter an Organization Name in the next field. If you enter "Individual" then you will fill in any fields pertaining to an individual.

**m) How is the Provider Address Zip Code entered?**

You may enter either the five (5) or nine (9) digit zip code for the provider; either is acceptable. No special characters ( - ) are allowed.

**n) There is an additional column entitled Provider Med Licenses under column AH. What is this?**

Some providers may have more than one medical license number. In that case, each additional license number must be entered and separated by a comma.

**o) How are multiple DBAs entered on the form? What if there are 99 DBAs for one provider?**

Under the column "Provider Business Aliases," you should enter all DBAs for the provider, each one separated by a comma. This can be completed using a cut and paste method from another document.

**p) What is the minimum and maximum number of certificates that can be entered at one time for each bulk upload?**

You may upload between 1 and 200 policies on each submission.

**q) In 2011, the PCF said the insured provider's email address must be entered. Is there a column for this on the form?**

The PCF is no longer requiring the email address for providers. Letters previously emailed to the providers and carriers can be retrieved via the PCF database by logging into [www.in.gov/idoi/pcf](http://www.in.gov/idoi/pcf), selecting the provider and associated policy, and clicking Print Confirmation Letter.

r) **What should be entered as the change reason for an amended or cancelled policy?**  
Please refer to the instructions sheet of the Bulk Submission File. Each reason type has a designated amend/cancel code that must be entered on the Bulk Submission File spreadsheet.

s) **What is the timeframe for entering and uploading an adjustment (amended or cancelled) filing before penalties are assessed?**

The same procedure and timeframe pertain to bulk filing as with filing a manually entered certificate. Amended filings resulting in additional surcharge owed must be entered and uploaded within 30 days of receipt of surcharge from the provider, or within 60 days of the effective date of the change, whichever is less. Cancellations or reductions in liability must be paid for and received by the PCF 30 days' prior to the effective date of the cancellation or reduction.

t) **Will filers receive an itemized list of all of the certificates contained in this submission once they receive a Payment Notification email?**

No. You will need to log into the system and click on the Search Payments queue. Each payment is assigned a Payment ID number that you may click on to see all the certificates filed with that payment.

u) **Can you explain the Provider Types listed on the instructions sheet?**

There are specific ISO Codes that identify each type of provider on the Bulk Submission File Upload spreadsheet. Based upon this ISO Code, you will enter either Ancillary, Independent Ancillary, or All Other Types. Please refer to [Rule 21](#) for the AP and IAP provider types and [Rule 60](#) (All Other Types) for more information. Nursing Homes (80923) and Hospitals (90000) cannot be submitted via bulk submission.

v) **What should be entered if a provider is Full-Time?**

If no credit code is entered, then the system defaults automatically to Full-Time.

## **21) BULK SEARCH**

a) **When going into the Bulk Search and viewing a certificate contained in the payment ID, there is a column showing a Record ID. What is this and when would this number be needed?**

A Record ID is the identification number assigned to a certificate. If there are questions regarding the certificate, this is how the vendor can find it.

b) **When looking in Bulk Search, listed under the heading "Status" each of the submissions has a different status. Why is this?**

You will see one of four status descriptions for each submission. New means that an upload has occurred, but has not completed the upload process yet. Processed indicates that the certificates contained within the bulk upload have completed the verification process. Requires Action signifies that one or more of the certificates within the submission must be edited before payment can be made. After editing, the certificate(s) showing as previously failed will be routed to the Manage Certificates screen. Pending means that the uploaded certificates are awaiting payment completion

## **22) RESERVE/CLAIM NOTICES**

a) **Does an insurance carrier or a self-insured hospital have to file with the Department notice of a claim against a health care provider if a proposed complaint has not been filed with the Department?**

b) Yes, per [IC 34-18-9-2](#), a medical liability insurer of a health care provider against whom an action has been filed under [IC 34-18-8-6\(a\)](#) shall provide written notice to the Commissioner within thirty (30) days after filing of the action, and upon final disposition of the action.

c) **How and when are reserve notifications filed?**

An insurance carrier or self-insured hospital setting a reserve must make the appropriate filing as per [IC 34-18-9-3\(a\)](#) and [Bulletin 119](#). Reserve notifications should be sent to:

Indiana Department of Insurance  
Medical Malpractice Division  
311 West Washington Street, Suite 103  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2787

d) **How and when are settlement notifications filed?**

A health care provider's insurer or risk manager must file a settlement notification within sixty days after the final disposition, and it should include the information listed in [IC 34-18-9-3\(b\)](#) and [Bulletin 119](#). Please note that if settlement notifications are not filed, the claim will remain open on the Department's records. Even if there is no settlement against the provider, the insurer is welcome to submit a settlement notification as this will facilitate closing of the file.

### 23) **NATIONAL PRACTITIONER DATA BANK**

a) **Why is the Patient's Compensation Fund reporting a payment in a provider's name?**

A payment made by the PCF to a plaintiff is made on behalf of every health care provider who participates in a settlement that allows the plaintiff access to the PCF. Under federal law, the PCF is required to report medical malpractice payments, made on behalf of physicians, to the National Practitioner Data Base ("NPDB").

b) **How will people know that multiple reports to the NPDB only involve one claim of malpractice?**

You are allowed to submit comments to the NPDB. Instructions on how to do so are included in the report that you received from the NPDB.

c) **An insurance company only paid a fraction of the settlement with the plaintiff, and other health care providers paid the rest. How does the Patient's Compensation Fund decide how much to report on behalf of each health care provider?**

The PCF reports payments to the NPDB in the same proportion that each health care provider participated in the *present value* of the settlement with the plaintiff. For example:

- i) A physician and a hospital participated in a settlement with a plaintiff and will eventually pay the plaintiff the amount specified in Indiana Code 34-18-14-3(b).
- ii) The present value of the payments made is \$187,001.
- iii) The hospital made a cash payment of \$62,334 (1/3 of the \$187,001), and the physician paid \$124,667 (2/3 of the \$187,001).
- iv) The Patient's Compensation Fund paid \$300,000 in excess damages.

- v) The report to the NPDB would show a payment of \$200,000 on behalf of the physician (2/3 of the \$300,000). The Patient's Compensation Fund would not report a payment on behalf of the hospital if the payment were made solely for the benefit of the hospital. If, however, the payment was made by the hospital on behalf of a second physician, the PCF would report \$100,000 (1/3 of the \$300,000) on behalf of the second physician.

**d) Why are providers not consulted regarding the amount of payment that was made to a plaintiff from the Patient's Compensation Fund?**

Under the Indiana Medical Malpractice Act, you have a right to object to a Petition for Excess Damages demanded by a plaintiff within twenty days after you are served with a copy of the summons and plaintiff's petition for excess damages. If you think that you were not served properly, you should contact your attorney. If a health care provider does not file an objection, the PCF proceeds with litigation of the claim independently.

**e) Where can more information about the NPDB and its requirements be found?**

The NPDB web site is <https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/>. The *NPDB Guidebook* is available in PDF form under the heading "Resources" on the NPDB web site.

**f) Can a provider dispute the report?**

The copy of the report that you received from the NPDB includes a notice of how to file a dispute. Follow those instructions. If you do not have the report sent to you by the NPDB, go to <https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/pract/howToSubmitAStatement.jsp> and follow the instructions there.

**24) STATUTE CHANGES**

**a) Is the Department required to send any type of notification to the insurance carriers regarding changes to the statute, rules, bulletins etc.?**

No, but the Department does maintain a listing of interested parties who wish to receive notifications of changes. If you would like to have your name added to the listing, please email [PCF-COI@idoi.IN.gov](mailto:PCF-COI@idoi.IN.gov).

**b) Will users be notified if there are enhancements to the PCF-COI Electronic Filing System or the Electronic COI Filing Procedures in the future?**

The PCF will make every effort to send notifications via the distribution list if there are changes. If you have not already done so, please email [PCF-COI@idoi.IN.gov](mailto:PCF-COI@idoi.IN.gov) to have your email address added to the PCF distribution list. However, you may want to check the date or version of the document you may be viewing periodically to verify you are using the most recent version.