



CLINICAL FAQ

Overview

NPAR™ is a secure, web-based database service. Its easy-to-use screens allow authorized users to quickly locate and retrieve a patient's antibody records and transfusion history from any participating blood bank or transfusion service. NPAR features a fully automated data entry process, so it is scalable to institutions of all sizes.

1. How do I find a patient's history?

You can look up an existing patient using their Medical Record Number (MRN).

NPAR also allows you to search by last name and date of birth. Six optional fields (first name, middle name, sex, ABO, Rh, and SSN) can be used to further narrow the search.

2. What if our hospital doesn't store patient SSNs?

NPAR uses the other demographic information to locate potential matching records.

3. Is a nationwide database going to return a lot of false matches?

A statistical study using actual blood bank records showed that in a database of 100 million patients the average chance of two patients having exactly the same first and last name, date of birth, sex, and ABO/Rh is nearly one in 100,000.

4. Can NPAR flag duplicate records?

NPAR provides a report that can help identify duplicate records within a facility's own database. Since NPAR's job is to faithfully mirror the hospitals' data, corrections should be made to the original database. Those corrections will propagate to NPAR with the next daily upload.

5. What kind of medical history does NPAR provide?

NPAR displays ABO/Rh, antibody identifications, transfusion reactions, and the type of blood products transfused, including quantities and transfusion date(s).

6. Can NPAR display information such as phenotypes and special instructions?

NPAR has the potential to upload and display any information that is in a hospital's blood bank computer system. Phenotypes and special instructions are candidates for a future release.

7. What process changes will we need to make?

Blood bank SOPs should include an NPAR search as part of every patient workup.

8. What if I have questions about a patient that was seen at another hospital?

NPAR provides contact information for each participating hospital. Clicking on the hospital name displays the hospital's contact information. That screen also displays that hospital's MRN.

9. Can I edit information in the NPAR database?

NPAR's job is to faithfully mirror the data provided by each participating hospital, therefore any errors should be fixed in the original hospital's computer system. Corrections will propagate to NPAR during the next daily upload.

10. Can I trust other hospitals' patient data?

Hospitals are serious about accurate record-keeping, and the vast majority of patient data is accurate. That said, patient history from other facilities should always be treated as advisory in nature, intended to help guide your patient workups. NPAR is not a substitute for regular screening procedures.

11. What if I feel that another hospital has provided questionable information?

NPAR lets you send a message to the reporting hospital. They can resolve the inquiry by explaining why the information is correct, or explaining how they have remedied the error. You will receive a message as soon as the inquiry is resolved.

12. How do I know if the information provided by another hospital is current?

Clicking on the name of a hospital will display the last time that a data upload was performed. NPAR's support staff monitors the uploads from each participating facility and takes corrective action if an upload does not arrive on schedule.

13. What if I need more information about a particular antibody?

Clicking on the antibody will take you to a screen that provides detailed information from the AABB Technical Manual.

14. Can we use NPAR if our own systems are down?

Yes, NPAR can act as a downtime backup for your blood bank computer systems. In addition, NPAR can be very helpful if patients are transferred en masse following a natural disaster.

15. How will we validate NPAR after installation?

Uploaded patient information is matched against your blood bank computer system. The validation must be successfully completed prior to "go-live".

16. Our legal department / risk manager / privacy officer will have additional questions. What information can I give them?

Please review the accompanying Privacy FAQ.

17. Our IT group will have additional questions. What information can I give them?

Please review the accompanying Technical FAQ.