

# Physician Data Center API

## Integration Guide

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Federation of State Medical Boards

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Revision	Description	Date
1	Original Document	2/14/2014
2	Update with Degree search field	7/3/2014

## Overview

The Physician Data Center (PDC) API enables a consumer's application to programmatically add physicians to a company roster and to retrieve PDC Physician Profile Reports regarding those physicians. This is the same PDC Company Roster that users see and manage when they log into the PDC Web Application.

The consumer will be 3rd party application that integrates the PDC's Physician Profile Report Data into its database. The 3rd party application will need to:

- Submit a search request
- Check the status of the search request
- Download the report
- *Generate an updated report*

A search request consists of a collection of data elements that may be used to uniquely identify a physician, such as their Name, Birthdate, Last4SSN, Graduation Year, Degree, NPI, and License Number. Once a query is added, the 3<sup>rd</sup> party application will poll the PDC API to retrieve the status of the queries. While most physician queries are matched immediately, some may be escalated for human verification. Once matched, the status will no longer be 'Pending' and the consumer may obtain the PDC Physician Profile Report data and/or PDF.

**Note:** At this time any matches that result in an 'Alerted' status are escalated for human verification and may experience some delay before the report is available.

## Getting Started

The PDC API is currently only offered to customers that have established an agreement with PDC which allows for monthly invoicing of accrued charges. Once an agreement is established with PDC, you may request that an API Key be generated. The API Key will be associated with a specific user on the contract, such as "API User": customerCare@HospCo.com, for representation in the applications audit log. The API key must be provided in every API call.

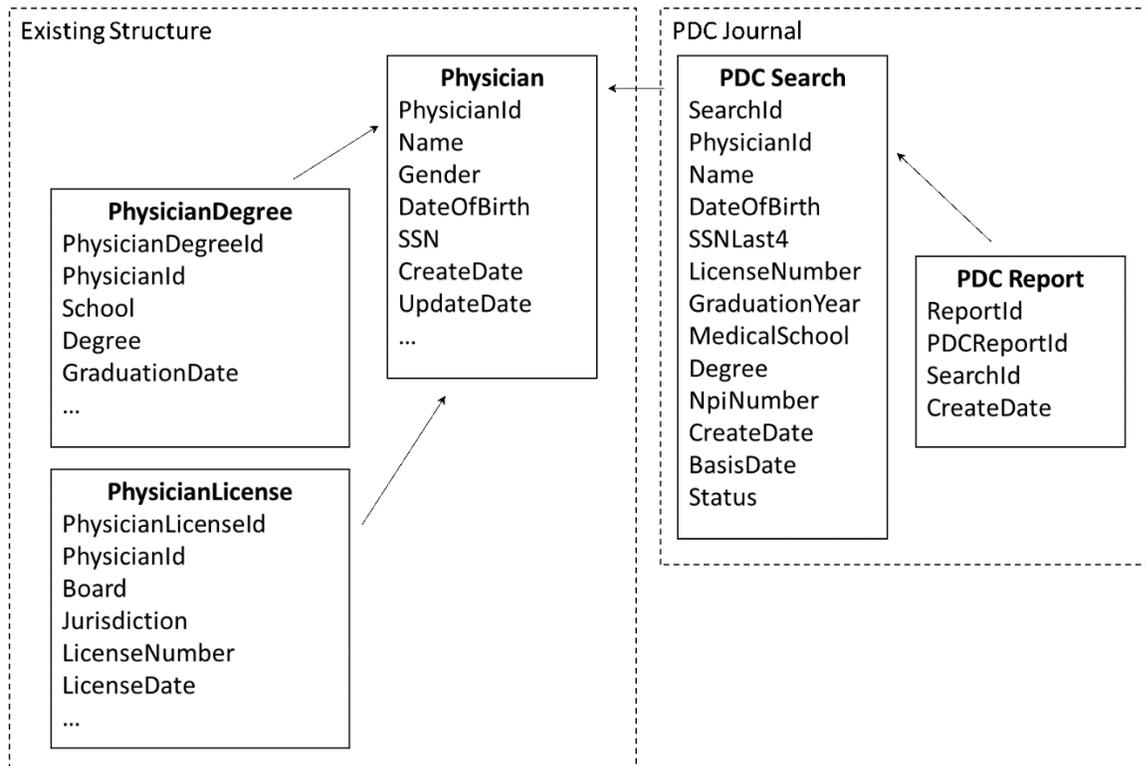
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### Consumer database structure

It is expected that the consumer has a practitioner database that they wish to augment with PDC Physician Profile Reports. Each practitioner must have a unique identifier, allocated by the consumer. This will not be the same as the FSMB Identifier (FID) appearing on the report, which is allocated and managed by the FSMB.

Assumptions of an Existing Structure and a recommended extension (PDC Journal) are as follows:



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### API Usage

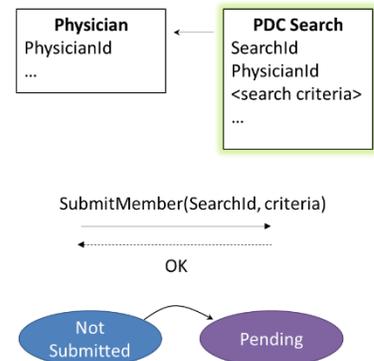
#### Submit a Search Request

When a consumer has a physician for which they wish to request a PDC Profile Report, they should keep track of the outgoing search request and the criteria used. It is recommended that the consumer create a PDC Search record. This will generate a searchId, map it to the consumer's physicianId, and capture the search criteria. The initial state of this record should be "Not Submitted". The consumer should then construct and send the **SubmitMember** message. The consumer delivers their SearchId and adequate SearchCriteria to PDC (see *API Specification document for payload details*).

**Note:** The **SubmitMember** message will incur a charge (added to the monthly invoice) for the physician Search, Match, and Physician Profile Report Generation in accordance with the active PDC contract to which the API User is associated.

After **SubmitMember**, the physician search will appear on the company roster associated with the API key used to deliver the message. An authorized end user logging on to the web application will see the physician on the roster and would be able to view status and access the report manually, if desired. The status of the search will initially be "Pending" and then be promoted to one of three possible states (explained in *GetMemberStatus message below*). It is recommended that the consumer update the status of their internal PDC Search record from "Not Submitted" to "Submitted" at this time.

**Note:** A consumer could potentially need to submit multiple queries for a given physician. This does not happen often, but it may occur if the biographical search criteria used previously resulted in an "inconclusive" match and must be changed. For example, a physician's name or date of birth, and/or year of graduation was entered incorrectly. The search based on incorrect data may have been inconclusive. After the data is corrected, a new search must be initiated and the previous SearchId deprecated.



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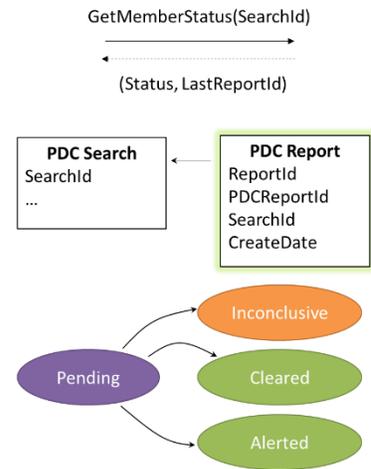
### Check the Status of the Search Request

After a physician has been added to the roster, the status of the Search Query may be obtained by using the **GetMemberStatus** message. The consumer passes in their internal SearchId. The SearchId must have been used in a prior **SubmitMember** call. SearchIds must be unique and may not be reused for a given consumer.

**Note:** No charge is incurred to check member status.

The **GetMemberStatus** message may return one of the following Status values:

- **Pending** – The search is ongoing. This may take additional time if human intervention is required for research. The report is not available during this time, check again later.
- **Inconclusive** – A matching physician could not be found. Please contact FSMB if you believe that this occurred in error. A report is not available through the API at this time. If a report is needed to comply with an audit, you may log into the PDC Web Application and retrieve one.
- **Alerted** – The physician has been found. Board orders exist on the report and the PDC Physician Profile Report and Data are available by using either the **GetReportData** or **GetReportPDF** message.
- **Cleared** – The physician has been found. No board orders exist on the report and the PDC Physician Profile Report and Data are available by using either the **GetReportData** or **GetReportPDF** message.



The **GetMemberStatus** method also returns the Id of the latest PDC Physician Profile Report Id. Upon receiving a status other than Pending or Inconclusive, the consumer may obtain the PDC Physician Profile Report using this latest PDC Physician Report Id.

**Note:** Read the section about requesting an updated PDC Physician Profile Report to better understand the significance of “latest” PDC Physician Report Id.

It is recommended that the consumer update their search status to the status returned (Pending, Alerted, Cleared, Inconclusive), and store the latest Physician Report ID when available.

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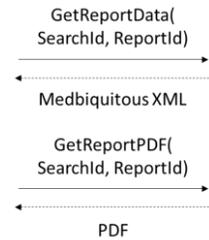
### Get PDC Physician Profile Report

After a consumer verifies that a roster entry has transitioned out of the “Pending” state and into a conclusive reportable state of “Alerted” or “Cleared”, they may get the PDC Profile Report data or PDF using the **GetReportData** or **GetReportPDF** message.

The **GetReportData** returns a report as XML. The **GetReportPDF** returns a report as both XML and as a PDF document. The type of content depends upon the status of the entry.

- *Alerted* – A Medbiquitous XML report is generated, including complete biographical data, education history, licensure, and board orders issued against the physician.
- *Cleared* – A Medbiquitous XML report is generated, including complete biographical data, education history, and licensure information. It contains no board orders.

**Note:** See the PDC API Specification for additional detail concerning the payload of these messages.



### Update Report

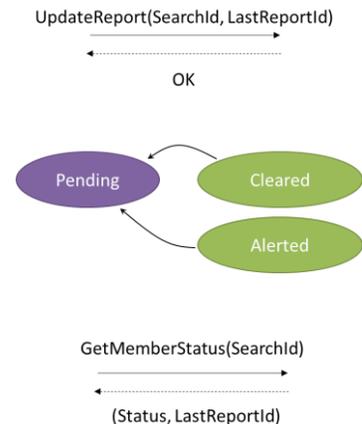
When a search result is in a conclusive reportable state of “Alerted” or “Cleared”, the consumer may request that a fresh report be generated by using the **UpdateReport** message. The consumer sends the SearchId that was used to submit the member, and the LastReportId on record.

If an error occurs, the consumer may safely resubmit the UpdateReport request, provided that the LastReportId is the same. PDC will not initiate a new search if one is already in progress, or the supplied report ID has already been superseded.

It is recommended that the consumer update the status of their internal PDC Search record to “Pending” at this time and begin polling

### GetMemberStatus.

**Note:** The **UpdateReport** message will incur a charge (added to the monthly invoice) for the Physician Profile Report Generation in accordance with the active PDC agreement to which your API is associated.



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### Inconclusive Search Results

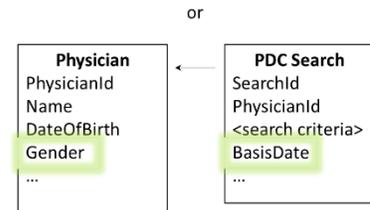
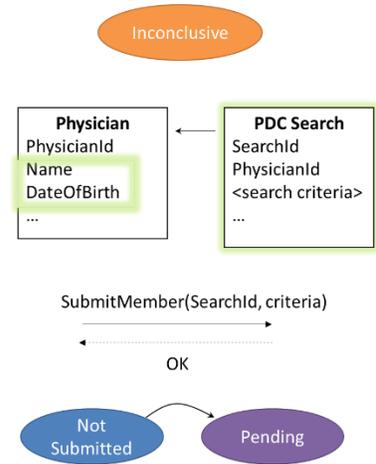
If the status of a PDC query is inconclusive, then a matching physician could not be found. Inconclusive results are generally caused by:

- Highly inaccurate or incomplete search criteria
- The Federation of State Medical Boards has no data available on this practitioner (i.e. Dentist, RN, etc.)

The consumer should update the physician's biographical information in their own application when they find the issue. The change in search criteria should be detected and generate a new PDC Search record.

The recommended strategy is to compare the Last Updated date on the Physician record with the Basis date on the PDC Search record. If the physician record was modified after the search basis, and the search was inconclusive, then compare the search criteria with the record. If the search criteria have changed, then generate a new PDC Search record with the Physician Last Updated date as the Basis date. If the search criteria have not changed, then update the Basis date of the existing record, to indicate that the search already reflects the current version. Additionally, if a conclusive match was made previously, there is no need to issue a new search id, one may simply **UpdateReport** for the practitioner to purchase a current PDC report (i.e. As-Of Date as indicated on the PDC Report).

Once the new PDC Search record is created, invoke the **SubmitMember** API and initiate the status polling as before.



### Getting a Great Match

The FSMB's ability to match your physician is excellent; however, there are things you can do to ensure the timeliest outcome. The higher the confidence our matching engine has against your search criteria, the less likely it is that the result will be escalated for human verification – and therefore delayed.

- **Name** - Always include the full name in your search criteria. If you have a choice of names, choose the most 'official' name, such as a name from a diploma, birth certificate, or passport and provide all name parts.
- **Graduation Year** – Always include the year of graduation from medical school.
- **Birthdate** – Always include the full birthdate, preferable from an official source such as a birth certificate or passport (YYYY-MM-DD).
- **License Number** – The FSMB regularly receives licensure data from the state medical boards. Including an active license number will only strengthen the confidence in a match to your query.
- **Degree** – Always include the degree. Be sure to use the Degree Code, such as "MD" or "DO".
- **NPI** – The FSMB is working to strengthen its repository of NPI data for its physician records. The value of including the physicians NPI will grow stronger each quarter.