

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT[641]

Notice of Intended Action

**Proposing rulemaking related to health data
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 177, “Health Data,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 135.166 and 1996 Iowa Acts, Chapter 1212.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code chapter 135.

Purpose and Summary

This proposed rulemaking provides that hospitals must submit data to a selected contractor of HHS. The contractor serves as an intermediary of HHS and completes data collection, maintenance, and dissemination to HHS and on behalf of HHS. It also allows HHS to charge fees for administrative costs related to providing data and requires data be kept confidential in compliance with state and federal law.

A Regulatory Analysis, including the proposed rule text, was published on November 1, 2023. A public hearing was held on November 28, 2023. The HHS received no public comments. The Administrative Rules Coordinator provided preclearance for publication of this Notice of Intended Action on December 4, 2023.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the HHS for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 441—Chapter 6.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the HHS no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 26, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

Joe Campos
Lucas State Office Building
321 East 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Phone: 515.304.0963
Email: compliancerules@idph.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

February 14, 2024 11 to 11:30 a.m.	Microsoft Teams meeting ID: 212 588 466 197 Passcode: SThXzX
February 26, 2024 1 to 2 p.m.	Microsoft Teams meeting ID: 249 196 980 071 Passcode: 9dQkSC

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the HHS and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 641—Chapter 177 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 177
HEALTH DATA

641—177.1(76GA,ch1212) Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Confidential record*” means a record that is not available as a matter of right for examination and copying by members of the public under applicable provisions of law. Confidential records include records or information contained in records that the agency is prohibited by law from making available for examination by members of the public, and records or information contained in records that are specified as confidential by Iowa Code section 22.7, or other provision of law, but that may be disclosed upon order of a court, the lawful custodian of the record, or by another person duly authorized to release the record. Mere inclusion in a record of information declared confidential by an applicable provision of law does not necessarily make that entire record a confidential record. Included in the definition are those data collected by the department, pursuant to 1996 Iowa Acts, chapter 1212, for preparation and dissemination as compilations.

“*Record*” means the whole or a part of a “public record” as defined in Iowa Code section 22.1 that is owned by or in the physical possession of this agency.

641—177.2(76GA,ch1212) Description of data to be submitted.

177.2(1) The department shall collect information from other state agencies for the purpose of public dissemination of health data.

177.2(2) Hospitals shall submit data to the contractor selected through the request for proposal process, which shall serve as an intermediary for the department. The information shall include inpatient, outpatient and ambulatory information.

177.2(3) The contractor selected through the request for proposal process shall collect, maintain, and disseminate hospital inpatient, outpatient, and ambulatory information pursuant to a memorandum of understanding with the department. The contractor selected through the request for proposal process shall submit data to the department pursuant to the memorandum of understanding.

641—177.3(76GA,ch1212) Fees. Fees charged for data provided by the department shall not exceed administrative costs. Such charges may include copying, postage, supervisory, computer programming, time, and medium fees. The department will work to provide requestors with an estimate of the charges to be assessed for copies and labor prior to producing copies of records.

641—177.4(76GA,ch1212) Patient confidentiality. The department shall protect patient confidentiality. Confidential records or parts of such records collected as a part of this process shall be kept confidential. All health data shall be collected, maintained, and disseminated only in accordance with Iowa and federal law.

These rules are intended to implement 1996 Iowa Acts, chapter 1212, section 5, and Iowa Code section 135.166.