



Joint Commission
on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

July 22, 1999

Mr. Tony Sanders
Public Information Officer
Illinois Department of Professional Regulation
320 West Washington
3rd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62786 **Fax: (217) 524-9296**

Dear Mr. Sanders:

In telephone conversations, and your letter you indicated the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation will be providing public information on the Department's Internet home page Web site (www.state.il.us/dpr). You indicated that in addition to physicians, nurses, and dentists approximately 610,000 persons are licensed in various occupations and professions.

The Joint Commission is always concerned regarding the accessibility and security of various electronic sources for primary verification, as well as the actual identity of the applicant or licensed registrant involved. These concerns were expressed by Alfred S. Buck, M.D., Executive Vice President for Measurement and Research during review of your letter and accompanying information. You indicated the public information provided on each licensee will include name, license status, city, state, original licensing date, expiration date, and an indicator of any disciplinary action. The accompanying forms indicated the DPR's database is updated monthly. In a telephone conversation you also indicated that the security of the system is substantially enhanced since each day the current information is copied and presented in the Web site the following day with the actual electronic file of the State of Illinois separately maintained and isolated from public accessibility.

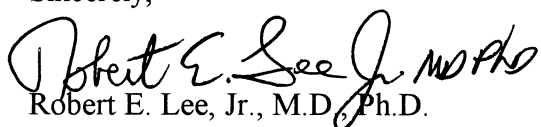
As described in the letter, the accompanying documents, and in telephone conversations the program offered by the State of Illinois appears to be an appropriate primary source for verification of current licensure responsive to the *MS.5.4* series of standards in the Medical Staff Chapter of the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals*, CAMH, 1999. Receipt of licensure information by health care organizations may be documented in the same manner as a telephone verification, or with a hard copy printout. Health care organizations may also electronically file licensure information obtained. The state may assist health care organizations by preparing a statement with information for the various organizations to have as a document of record indicating important features of this program.

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I trust this information is useful to you. If you have further questions, please feel free to call me at (630) 792-5905.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Lee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert E. Lee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Director
Department of Standards

cc: Dr. Alfred Buck
Patricia Staten
Dr. Senen Asuan

RL:dap
DOS-7-3006