

# Health Industry Number (HIN)<sup>®</sup>

## F.A.Q. – Data Licensing

The Health Industry Number (HIN) Database is administered and maintained by the Health Industry Business Communications Council. The HIN Database is subscriber driven and supported through the licensing fees of hundreds of subscribing companies. These licensing fees are used to fund the ongoing data maintenance and verification processes, as well as the development of new initiatives such as iHIN, a web enabled HIN interface (see related story on page 7). As a result, HIN subscribers share the burden of protecting the Database from unauthorized distribution, thereby maintaining its viability and affordability.

HIBCC receives frequent inquiries regarding the proper use and distribution of HIN data. To assist our subscribers, we have provided this basic summary of the HIN licensing terms.

1. The HIN Database contains copyrighted, proprietary information. Although it is leased to subscribing organizations, HIBCC maintains ownership of all data.
2. Subscribers are prohibited from disclosing any information contained in the HIN Database to any other individual, association, firm, parent or subsidiary organization that is not also an authorized HIN subscriber.
3. Although the provision of an individual HIN to the specific customer it identifies is permitted, blocks of data or the entire distribution should never be provided in any manner or format unless the trading partner is also an authorized HIN subscriber.
4. A continuing HIN subscription is required for an organization to use the HIN. If an organization elects to cancel their HIN subscription they are required to remove all HIN information from their system and are prohibited from using the HIN in any transaction.
5. HIN subscriptions do not convey between a parent organization and/or its subsidiaries and divisions. Each subsidiary and division must maintain their own, individual subscription to the HIN Database in order to be authorized subscribers. (For large corporations with multiple divisions, HIBCC will execute an “Umbrella Licensing Agreement” to provide HINs to all divisions.)
6. Animal Health Institute (AHI) distributors and manufacturers are not direct subscribers to the HIN database, but rather participants in the AHI Special project. Therefore, AHI participants are prohibited from sharing HIN data with parties outside of the project. Direct subscribers to the Animal Health subset of the HIN database are free to trade HINs with other direct subscribers, but are restricted from trading HIN information with AHI participants. AHI participants that would like to trade HIN information with parties outside of the project should contact HIBCC for a direct subscription.
7. Data reselling organizations, Internet intermediaries and consultants working for HIN subscribers are restricted from releasing any data that contains the HIN to non-HIN subscribers. Companies wanting to acquire data from these parties that includes HIN information must first become authorized subscribers.
8. Violation of the licensing agreement will result in termination of the HIN subscription.

Lists of authorized HIN subscribers are maintained and posted on the HIBCC Web site, in the quarterly publication LINES, and are included with each HIN Database distribution. If you have questions about the licensing guidelines or would like to discuss special circumstances related to your organization’s use of the HIN, please contact our office at 602.381.1091.



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