



# HB 25 – PATIENT IDENTITY VALIDATION

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ISSUE BRIEF

## SUMMARY

This issue brief provides an update to the Legislature on the implementation of HB 25 *Patient Identity Validation* (Barlow) passed during the 2012 General Session. This brief is for informational purposes only and requires no Legislative action.

## DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

HB 25 *Patient Identity Validation* made several changes:

1. **Master Person Index** - authorizes the Department of Health to establish methods or measures for health care providers, public health entities, and health care insurers to coordinate among themselves to verify the identity of the individuals they serve.
2. **Master Person Index cannot be used in court proceedings** - includes in the description of governmental function for immunity from suit the establishment of the methods or measures for health care providers, public health entities, and health care insurers to coordinate among themselves to verify the identity of the individuals they serve.

The bill authorized the Department of Health to establish a method to help health care providers to verify the identity of the patients they serve. The Department of Health worked with representatives to develop system requirements and technical infrastructure for a statewide master person index. The index would serve as a resource for providers, insurers and public health to verify individual identities electronically. As part of this project the Department of Health has created and is in the process of testing a public health master person index. The Department has been working with the University of Utah, Intermountain Healthcare, and the Utah Health Information Network.

The Department established the index with an estimated \$261,700 federal funds in FY 2012 and \$192,900 federal funds in FY 2013 to develop the technical infrastructure of a public health Master Person Index. The ongoing and maintenance among participants of the statewide master person index has yet to be determined.