IMMUNIZATION REGISTRIES

Using Technology to Improve Our Health

SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™

CDC Immunization Registry CLEARINGHOUSE

800-799-7062

WEBSITE: www.cdc.gov/nip/registry

Immunization registries

Immunization registries are computerized information systems that collect vaccination histories and help ensure correct and timely immunizations, especially for children.

States and local communities throughout the country are developing confidential registries with assistance from federal, state, and local partners. Registries are endorsed by many highly respected professional organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the National Medical Association (NMA).

The benefits of immunization registries

Record Consolidation

Combine immunization information from different sources into a single record and provide official immunization records for school, day care, and camp entry requirements.

Decision Support

Help providers and parents determine when immunizations are due and help ensure that children get only the vaccines that they need.

Reminder/Recall System

Remind families when an immunization is due or has been missed. This function is important in keeping children up-to-date.

Provider Information Source

Keep health care providers informed about new vaccines and changes in the recommended schedule.

Identification of High-Risk Areas

Identify children susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases and promote immunization efforts in their communities.

Tell me more.

We invite both health care professionals and consumers to call our CDC Immunization Registry Clearinghouse and visit our website for more information on immunization registries.

CDC IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY CLEARINGHOUSE

800-799-7062 Atlanta, GA: 404-639-8245 Fax: 404-639-8171 CDC Immunization Registry Website: www.cdc.gov/nip/registry

Lowering the cost of a healthy community

By two years of age, over 20 percent of the children in the U.S. have seen more than one provider. Accurately assessing immunization needs is difficult when records are scattered and the available immunization history is incomplete. In addition to missing opportunities for immunization, one in five U.S. children receives at least one unnecessary dose of vaccine by two years of age—wasting a startling $26.5 million in vaccine costs each year. Registries can save money by ensuring that children get only the vaccines they need, and at the same time, they can improve office efficiency by reducing the time needed to review medical records for assessment and documentation of immunization status.

Health care providers use registries to

- Obtain a complete and accurate immunization history for a new or continuing patient
- Produce official immunization records
- Reduce paperwork
- Manage vaccine inventories
- Introduce new vaccines or changes in the vaccine schedule
- Help interpret the complex immunization schedule
- Provide coverage data for health insurance plans and other national organizations

Communities use registries to

- Identify populations at high risk for vaccine-preventable diseases
- Target immunization interventions and resources efficiently

Parents use registries to

- Remember when immunizations are due or late
- Obtain an accurate, official, immunization history for personal use and for day care, school, or camp entry requirements

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Immunization Program
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Ensuring the confidentiality of registry information

Registries must protect the privacy of all users, including children, families, and providers. To help make this possible, a CDC-led team developed minimum privacy specifications for the protection of the privacy of registry users and the confidentiality of the registry information. The specifications address the following:

Confidentiality Policies
All registries must have a written policy that is consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Confidentiality Agreements
All users or their employees must sign an agreement to comply with the written specifications.

Notification
Parents must be notified of the existence of the registry, what information will be contained in it, and how the information will be used.

Choice
Parents must be allowed to choose whether to participate in the registry.

Use of Registry Information
Registry information must only be used for its intended purpose and not be used in a punitive manner.

Access to and Disclosure of Registry Information
Policies must clearly define who has access to registry information.

Penalties for Unauthorized Disclosure
Policies must define what constitutes a breach of confidentiality. Penalties must be enforced.

Data Retention
Policies must address the period of time that registry information will be held.