An immunization registry is a secure, computerized system that helps doctors retrieve their patients’ complete immunization histories from a regional database. It is a sophisticated, user-friendly tool to help physicians keep their young patients’ immunizations and records up-to-date.

Immunization registries are endorsed by:

- American Academy of Pediatrics, California District IX
- California Academy of Family Physicians
- California Medical Association
- California School Nurses Organization

CITATIONS

Doctors Face Challenges. Immunization records are incomplete or unavailable. Nearly 1 in 4 U.S. children see more than one immunization provider by age two. In fact, with mobile California families, the chart in the child’s most recent medical home is accurate only 62% of the time.¹

Immunization records are easily lost in a disaster like an earthquake or fire. Hundreds of thousands of families displaced by Hurricane Katrina had their immunization records electronically transmitted to medical offices and schools across the U.S. only because Louisiana’s immunization registry kept them high and dry.

It’s harder than you think to keep track. Immunization schedules are complex and change often and doctors tend to be overly optimistic. California physicians surveyed believed that 85% of their two-year olds were fully covered—actual coverage rates averaged just over 50%.² Moreover, three studies found that staff in providers’ offices accurately identified patients due for vaccines only 27%–64% of the time.³ ⁴ ⁵

Record-keeping requires valuable staff time. Manual record retrieval and review costs you an average of $14.50 per child in your practice—three times the cost of maintaining immunization histories in a registry.⁶

A Registry Can Help. ACCESS

• Retrieves immunization records of patients seen previously at another provider’s office—without calling around.
• Helps eliminate duplicate immunizations (and reassure parents) with rapid access to current, complete immunization histories.
• Highlights critical patient information such as reaction histories and contraindications.

ACCURATE

• Displays instantly and accurately vaccine doses due at each visit, based on current recommendations.* Forecasts each child’s next vaccine due dates to keep patients on schedule.
• Generates data needed for HEDIS reporting, vaccine usage reports, and immunization rates for your practice.


EFFICIENT

• Eases the burden on office staff by generating the reminder/recall notices that parents want to receive.⁷ (Typically, reminder/recall systems boost immunization rates by 17%).⁸
• Streamlines charting by automatically recording manufacturer and lot number for each dose in the patient’s record.
• Replaces lost California Immunization Records (yellow cards) by printing a new copy with up-to-date information.

Call Your Local Registry. California is served by regional and county registries. There’s one near you!

Registries are confidential, secure, and easy to use. You can participate without a major investment of time or money. With a computer, Internet access, and training from registry staff in your area, your system will be up and running.

For more information about immunization registries in California and how to join, contact:

California Department of Health Services Immunization Branch
www.ca-siis.org
(510) 620-3737

Photo: Courtesy of the Los Angeles (LA) County Immunization Program