



Designed by OLI Interactive

The National Health Information  
Infrastructure Conference – July 2003

*We want to create a system “that will prove  
invaluable in facilitating the automated exchange  
of clinical information needed to protect patient  
safety, detect emerging public health threats,  
better coordinate patient care... Current data is  
critical for decision-making.”*

Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson

At this same conference several speakers  
identified immunization registries as examples  
of the successful implementation of cutting  
edge health care technology.

*“Please join me in our mission to assure that all  
of America’s children are fully immunized on  
time by calling your local health department to  
inquire about how you can sign up to share  
data with the registry.”*

Rosalynn Carter  
Co-founder, Every Child By Two

For more information visit:  
<http://www.ecbt.org/healthplanguide.html>

Created by the Managed Care  
Organization/Immunization Registry Data  
Exchange Committee of Every Child By Two  
(ECBT) and the American Immunization  
Registry Association (AIRA)

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Is  
Quality  
More  
Than  
Just a  
Number  
?

*Your community’s  
immunization  
registry*



*What if you devised a method to raise your health plan's immunization HEDIS®<sup>1</sup> rates?*

*What if you reduced or eliminated the need for on-site visits to conduct immunization assessments?*

*What if you found a way to ease the burden of health care providers and improve their ability to deliver timely immunizations?*

*What if you could be credited with improving the quality of care for the children within your health plan?*

*Just imagine that all the while, you could be saving your health plan time and money!*



All this is possible by collaborating with your health department to facilitate the sharing of immunization records via immunization registries. These confidential, computerized information systems contain vaccination histories and provide access to a child's current immunization status. They generate immunization reports such as those needed for HEDIS with the touch of a button.

As families move in and out of public and private health care systems, parents, providers and health plans can use registries to ensure that members receive timely immunizations and proper treatment. Registries collect immunization data on children regardless of where they receive their vaccines. Since immunization records are consolidated in a central database, health plans can accurately assess the immunization

status of members, thereby increasing the immunization HEDIS rates of the plan.

Registries can automatically generate notices to families reminding them about health care/immunization appointments. This will allow your health plan to better allocate resources towards other outreach activities.

*"We felt the use of CHILD Profile's registry data greatly widened our net for capturing immunizations on our members in the 2001 HEDIS® reporting year...and we believe its use lowered our costs and time for medical record review by providing vaccine dates we didn't have in our own administrative data set."*

Jody Pilsworth  
Strategic Information Coordinator  
Columbia United Providers  
Vancouver, Washington

<sup>1</sup> HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

## Registries Offer Many Benefits to Health Plans and their Participating Providers. They can:

- Save time and money
- Increase HEDIS rates
- Reduce dollars spent in over-vaccination
- Reduce or eliminate the need for health plan staff to conduct manual chart pulls to collect immunization data in physician offices
- Facilitate disease prevention
- Generate timely immunization reports (e.g. HEDIS, CASA and other quality improvement initiatives)
- Support the concept of a medical home by making accurate immunization data available to primary care physicians
- Increase immunization data quality and completeness
- Improve quality of care and service delivery
- Increase provider and member satisfaction by providing accurate and timely immunization records
- Increase purchaser satisfaction by reducing employee absences for care of sick children
- Allow for health plan comparison by benefits managers, increasing public relations value of registries
- Improve quality and timeliness of immunization delivery by providing up-to-date ACIP vaccine recommendations and intervals
- Provide official immunization documentation cards to parents for school, child care and camp enrollment, and for personal record keeping
- Provide appointment reminder and recall postcards
- Allow expeditious tracking of vaccines in case of vaccine shortages and during manufacturer recalls
- Registries are also working to integrate with other systems (e.g., newborn screening and WIC)

## Benefits to the Bottom Line

Twenty-one percent (21%) of 19-35 month old children have received at least one dose of vaccine they did not need. This adds up to an estimated cost of \$15 million, not including administration costs (National Immunization Survey, 1998). Registries significantly decrease the chances of over-immunizing plan members, saving the health plan money and the child discomfort.

Twenty-two percent (22%) of American children see two immunization providers in their first two years of life. Three percent (3%) see three or more providers. Each change in provider necessitates a manual record pull and review at a total annual cost of approximately \$16 million (NVAC Report, 1999).

