

Citywide Immunization Registry, New York City Department of Health
Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor Neal L. Cohen, M.D. Commissioner

Quarterly Feature

Winner's Circle

As CIR staff visit health care providers all over the City, your efforts to incorporate the CIR into daily practice are noted. To show our appreciation, four times a year the CIR will honor two healthcare sites for their outstanding work. Prizes will be delivered to each of the winners and celebration will ensue! Stay tuned and you might be the next to hear: "And the winner is..."

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Medical Humor

(Courtesy of the CIR)

1. Before giving a blood transfusion, find out if the blood is affirmative or negative.
2. To remove dust from the eye, pull the eye down over the nose.
3. To collect fumes of sulphur, hold down a deacon over a flame in a test tube.

(source: middle school science exam)

Immunization Reporting (How and Why)

Providers report to the CIR via paper, bar-code stickers, electronically and on-line

Records are sent to:
NYC Immunization Registry,
C.S. Box 9029,
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Reports are entered into the central CIR Database. The records can then be retrieved via computer or by calling the CIR (212) 676-2323

It is mandatory to report immunizations to the CIR for kids 7 yrs and under.

Immunization history reports generated from the CIR are accepted as an attachment to school, day care and camp entry forms.

Accurate records in the CIR allow for improved screening and measurement of immunization coverage. Opportunities to immunize won't be missed. Over-immunization will be reduced.
All Kids Count!

The Winners Circle:

Coney Island Hospital

The CIR salutes the Pediatric Ambulatory Care Department of Coney Island Hospital(CIH) for their enthusiastic participation in the CIR. The support of Warren Siegel,MD, Department Chair, and Mildred Rutstein, RN, Pediatric Protocol Coordinator,have been instrumental in successful use of the CIR at this bustling Brooklyn location.

As one of the Health and Hospital Corporation's (HHC) sites, CIR serves diverse group of families with varied needs. If a child comes to the Outpatient Pediatrics Department (OPD) for a health care visit without an immunization record, nursing staff quickly check the CIR via computer.

Using creative search strategies they are able to locate more than one third of their patients in the CIR. The physician is able to use this record to enhance screening efforts and both reduce the chance of missed opportunities to immunize as well as decrease over-immunization.

Millie Rutstein comments that the Registry has challenged the OPD to bring together staff from different disciplines to facilitate reporting and access to the CIR - a challenge they have more than met!

The Winners Circle:

Dr. Robert Heiss

When you have a practice as busy as Dr. Robert Heiss', finding the quickest way to do something isn't just helpful, it is necessary! That's why when computer access was introduced as a way to report children's immunizations, the staff at Dr. Heiss' office jumped at the chance.

"It's a quicker way to report the information, and there's no waiting time" says Betty Loo, a medical assistant at Dr. Heiss's office. She has gone a step further. Instead of simply reporting the child's history via computer she also faxes CIR staff with corrections to the record and CIR staff promptly makes the changes.

It's this type of dedication that is making the CIR a resource for complete and accurate immunization records. We thank the entire staff at Dr. Heiss' office for their commitment to excellence.

Interested in having computer access to the CIR?
Call (212) 676-2323

Help us improve the CIR!

On a monthly basis, try reviewing every tenth paper reporting form to ensure that the information reported is the same as that in the child's chart. If you are currently reporting electronically, you could generate a printout to check against the child's chart.

If you come across a record with incorrect information, please fax or mail the corrections to us on your letterhead. The fax number is (212) 676-2314.

CIR staff members have been working hard to manually merge duplicate records. We have also recently implemented a new statistical program to assist in de-duplication efforts.

Parents and providers can request a free copy of a child's record by calling (212) 676 2323 M-F 8a.m. to 5p.m.

Your involvement in the CIR is vital to its success. We appreciate your continued support!