



# NEWS

Winter 2000



**Healthy children...right from the start!**

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

## **T**HE CITYWIDE IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY (CIR)— MOVING FORWARD

The participation of dedicated health care providers has contributed greatly to the success of the Citywide Immunization Registry. Building on this success, current Registry activities focus on increasing the use and value of the immunization records contained in the CIR.

One such effort to increase the value of CIR data is the development of a new statistical decision making tool to match and merge fragmented records in the database. This program promises to substantially improve data quality and consequently improve providers' ability to efficiently look-up records in the CIR.

Another project is underway to promote use of the CIR, by modifying and improving the computer application that providers use to dial-in to the CIR from their offices, ambulatory care centers or health centers. This new and improved application will give providers state-of-the-art navigational ability to search for patients, produce automated reports, and assess the immunization status of patients.

Finally, a collaborative pilot has begun with managed care organizations that will use CIR data to identify children in need of vaccines, and will reach out to those children through mailed recall letters. The results of the pilot will be available in early Spring.

### **MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER!**

- Please remember to report all immunizations to the CIR within 14 days of administration!
- Check the records you submit for accuracy and completeness.
- Call us Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (212) 676-2323 to get a child's (or a group of children's) immunization record(s).
- Contact us at (212) 676-2323 for free and friendly on-site training to access the Registry via personal computer and modem.

**Quarterly Feature**

## **Winners' Circle**

To show our appreciation, four times a year we honor two health care sites for their outstanding efforts. Tasty treats and certificates of appreciation 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..."**  
[For this quarter's winners, please turn the page!](#)

[The Winners' Circle](#)

## Dr. Susan Levitzky

In her role as Medical Director of the Jewish Child Care Association of New York, a foster care agency serving New York City families, Dr. Susan Levitzky has supported registry development from its inception. However, as sole pediatric practitioner in a busy private practice she was less sure how reporting to the CIR would fit into her hectic schedule. It was therefore no surprise when she volunteered to join a pilot project to test a new, potentially more efficient type of reporting using bar code stickers. Dr. Levitzky and her medical assistant, Margaret Aumente, have worked diligently to fit bar code reporting into the daily routine of their office. Two years later, they are still happy with their decision. "We love it," says Ms. Aumente, "it's timesaving, easy, and efficient". The work of reporting is divided between them, with Ms. Aumente registering new patients and reporting immunization histories while Dr. Levitzky is responsible for all current immunizations. Bar code reporting takes a high level of organization and responsibility, and we are very thankful to Dr. Levitzky and staff for their commitment to this project.

## The Center for Comprehensive Health Practice, Inc.

The Center for Comprehensive Health Practice, Inc. began working with the CIR in 1996 as one of the East Harlem sites that piloted CIR reporting prior to citywide implementation. As a pilot site, they were one of the first health centers to begin reporting immunizations to the Registry on DOH paper forms. They have been accessing immunization histories using the on-line computer application since May 1999, and have recently begun reporting immunizations online. Their ongoing support of Registry progress clearly demonstrates that the CIR is a joint venture—our success depends upon the combined efforts of everyone involved. We'd like to thank them for providing such an outstanding example.

**FREE TRAINING!**

Computer Access to the CIR

Call: (212) 676-2323



**Humor Humor Humor**  
(Courtesy of the CIR)

## Data Quality

A new monk was given his first task at the monastery, the same task as all entering monks before him. He was instructed to copy a manuscript in longhand in order to develop patience and understanding. The monk was given a copy of the manuscript to work from but he wanted to use the original version, which no one had done for decades. He spent many days searching for the manuscript in the cellar of the monastery. At last one day he was heard yelling from the cellar. The elders rushed down in search of the new monk and found him clutching the original manuscript crying out, "The word was celebrate!"

The moral of the story: **always write legibly!**