



NEWS

Spring 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

Immunization Registries Need Political Will, Financial Backing

ATLANTA, May 2, 2000 - First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Betty Bumpers, wife of former Senator Dale Bumpers, joined with health experts yesterday to urge Congress to find the political will and financial backing for immunization registries that can ensure every child is immunized on time, every time. As William H. Foege, MD, MPH, chief advisor to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and a world-renowned immunization policy expert, said, "Vaccines do no good if they are not used. Creating a system to use them properly is as important as developing vaccines in the first place. One is the product of good science; the other is the product of good governance."

Recent data show that immunization registries not only can increase or sustain high immunization rates, but they also can save twice what they cost. A fully operational system of immunization registries could annually eliminate approximately \$250 million in costs incurred in this country by making accurate, up-to-date immunization information available to health care professionals and schools. The cost to complete and maintain immunization registries is

approximately \$5 per child per year, for all children up to age 6, or \$125 million annually.

Since 1992, over \$200 million has been invested in the development of registries by federal, state and local governments, and private foundations. Approximately \$50 million annually is now being spent on registries. Of that 42% is from federal funding for state immunization programs (federal section 317 funding), while 58% is from states/counties/cities, HCFA/Medicaid, health plans, foundations and fee-for-service. Approximately \$65 million annually is needed to complete and maintain community- and state-based immunization registries. The 1999 National Vaccine Advisory Committee report on immunization registries called for a five-year grant program to fund registries.

Foege and other experts spoke yesterday at the legislative briefing in Washington, D.C. to inform members of Congress about registries. The briefing was sponsored by many health care and public health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association.

Quarterly Feature

Winner's 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

St. Vincent's Services, Inc.

Providing preventive medical services at their on-site clinic to the approximately 1000 children in foster care is an important part of this Brooklyn agency's mission. St. Vincent's Services has been accessing the CIR using the on-line computer application to look up and report children's immunization records since August, 1999. Nurse Supervisor Mary Heapes, RN, says "lots of kids come into care and don't always come with [immunization] records... finding a hit saves time and legwork... otherwise it could take up to eight weeks to get a child's record." Even for children that get their primary care from St. Vincent's on-site clinic, Ms. Heapes finds the CIR a useful tool, saying "we get to see shots from other providers that they [parents/guardians] don't tell us about and it's very exciting."

Medical Director Leslie Gulick, MD, is happy to report that the clinic will become a full-time Community Health Center in June 2000, operating under the auspices of Catholic Medical Center. They are looking forward to offering expanded medical services to Brooklyn residents. In addition to pediatric primary care, they will initially offer dental and neuroservices, with other specialties to come.

The CIR is happy to be able to serve as a resource to St. Vincent's Services, and thanks them for demonstrating the value of access to centralized, consolidated immunization records for New York City's children.

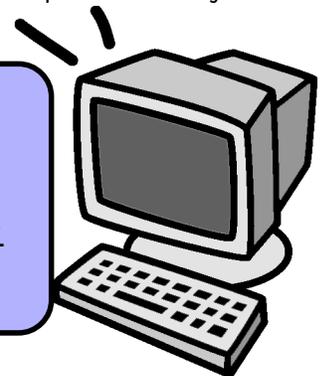
A Winner in Greenpoint!—Ewa Gawlik, MD

This small practice has only been in operation for two years and already reports immunizations to the CIR via computer. Dr. Gawlik says she really finds it convenient to use, stating that she only spends about an hour every week entering all the immunizations that she gives. She reports on new children using DOH paper forms ensuring that all the children she immunizes, i.e. those children not already registered in the CIR, are enrolled in the system.

The practice is a clinic of Maimonides Medical Center, and although Dr. Gawlik now practices solo, she expects to have a partner by the summer of 2000. A large percent of the patients seen at this practice are recent Polish immigrants. Dr. Gawlik reports that she has had a fairly stable group of patients so far, but feels the Registry will be very useful in maintaining a complete and accurate immunization record when patients change doctors. For this reason, she says she also encourages other physicians to use the CIR.

The CIR staff would like to thank Dr. Gawlik for her efforts in using the CIR to help keep New York City's children healthy.

FREE TRAINING!
Computer Access to the CIR
Call: (212) 676-2323



Humor Humor
(Courtesy of the CIR)

How long does it take a nurse to change a light bulb?

Only a minute, but it takes 45 minutes to document.

How long does it take a nurse manager to change a light bulb?

Unknown... policy is still being written, skill day has to be scheduled, the task delegated and of course be approved for in the budget.

The Evolution of Medicine

I have an earache...

- 2000 BC _ Here, eat a root
1000 AD _ That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.
1850 AD _ That prayer is superstition. Here drink this potion.
1940 AD _ That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.
1985 AD _ That pill is ineffective. Here take this antibiotic.
2000 AD _ That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root.