



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

CDC Uses CIR as Sentinel-Site

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has asked New York City to serve as a "sentinel" site for the monitoring of immunization acceptance and practice. The New York Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR), is ideally suited for such an investigation. The purpose of this effort is to provide insights into immunization practices and factors influencing those practices around the country (e.g., the media). This way the public health community can respond quickly and effectively to those influences should the need arise.

To do this monitoring effectively, a subset of the city's children has been selected for which we receive regular and timely immunization data. Nine NYC private practices who report to the CIR regularly have been selected to participate in this effort. We are very happy to announce that all nine practices have agreed to participate.

Every few months we will look at CIR data submitted from these sites to see if there are changes in the use of various vaccinations. This data will be extracted aggregately from all sites and statistics will be compiled. Data for individual children or individual providers will not be used in this investigation.

We look forward to working with the CDC and the nine private practices. Results of the investigation will be reported in the CIR News as they become available.

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..."**



L-R:
 Jennifer C., LPN
 Bibi H.
 Robert M.
 Simi K.
 Sandhya B.
 Yvonne M., MD
 Annie S., NP

Dr. Steven Tamarin, former New York State Academy of Family Physicians President, is a strong believer in the value of the Registry. As one of the system's first users in 1997, Dr. Tamarin's office has reported consistently from the beginning. Based on his experience,

(Continued on page 2)

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○ Free Training!

Contact us at (212) 676-2323 for free and easy on-site training to access the Registry via personal computer and modem.

Winner's Circle (continued from page 1)

Dr. Tamarin believes the Registry would "lower the number of missed opportunities if it were more widely used."

His busy Upper West Side practice reports on paper, and uses on-line computer access to the CIR to look-up and print children's immunization records. Annie Samuels, nurse practitioner, likes the Registry because she finds that it "saves time, because I don't have to fill out school forms." She also finds it extremely helpful that the system alerts her if shots are due. Nurse Samuels even educates parents about the CIR, explaining to them the benefits of having their child's record in a central location.

The CIR staff thank Dr. Tamarin's entire office staff for their hard work and continued dedication to keeping New York City's children healthy.

Chinatown Health Clinic Flushing Health Clinic

The pediatric staff at Chinatown Health Clinic and their satellite, Flushing Health Clinic, have been ardent supporters of the CIR. Whenever a child comes in without an immunization record they are able to search for this record in the CIR right from their PC. Recently, they have been using on-line access to print their immunization records to meet day-care and school entry requirements for their patients. In fact, they got the idea to use CIR immunization history print-outs for daycare and school entry by reading the CIR News!

Both Chinatown Health Clinic and Flushing Health Clinic report to the CIR electronically. They have modified their billing systems to extract immunization information and send it to the CIR. At the same time, they are very diligent in filling out paper-reporting forms to report immunization histories for new patients. We commend the dedicated staff of Chinatown and Flushing Health Clinics and are thrilled to serve as a resource for these clinics and others like them all over New York City.



L-R:
Florence C.
Yvonne S.
Anita W.

HealthStat: Health Insurance Campaign for New York Families

Recognizing the needs of the estimated 325,000 children in New York City who are eligible for health insurance but have not yet been enrolled, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has launched the "HealthStat Initiative" under the direction of Anne Heller, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Health Insurance Access (MOHIA). All programs within the New York City Department of Health have been invited to participate.

This initiative, established in June 2000, is a mayoral priority and has mobilized 21 agencies to identify and assist uninsured children and families to enroll in two public health insurance programs: Medicaid and Child Health Plus (CHP). These health

insurance programs are offered either free or at low cost depending on the income and composition of the family. City agency personnel are working with their clients, customers, community members and others to refer them to facilitated enrollment sites located in community based organizations, local hospitals and health centers. Families can quickly complete a simplified application called the Growing Up Healthy Application to enroll eligible children into either Medicaid or CHP. An important aspect of the CHP Program is that it is open to ALL children under 19 years of age, regardless of their immigration status or that of their parents. HealthStat members meet weekly to assess the city's overall efforts to monitor referrals and to identify areas where greater focus is needed.

HealthStat is expanding its efforts to reach out to the public by establishing a 24 hour HealthStat Hotline, 1-888-NYC-6116, to provide information and to assist individuals with financial pre-screening for health insurance. For more information about the HealthStat Initiative and services, call MOHIA at 212-788-8282.

**Completed CIR Reporting forms
should be mailed to:**

**NY Citywide Immunization Registry
C.S. Box 9029
Farmingdale, NY 11735**

Please include a batch submittal form with each batch of forms sent in