

We help you call the shots!

2002 Recommended Immunization Schedule Brings Some Changes

The 2002 Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule has been released. Significant changes include:

- All infants are recommended to receive the first dose of Hep B vaccine before hospital discharge.
- Influenza vaccine is now included on the schedule.
- Catch-up schedules:
 - Any older child who has not received the Hep B series should be immunized.
 - Any child who is over 12 months of age and who has not had varicella vaccine, and for whom it is not medically contraindicated, should be immunized, with children ages 13 and over receiving 2 doses of vaccine given at least 4 weeks apart.
 - Any teen who has not had a second MMR, and for whom it is not medically contraindicated, should receive this dose.

The use of combination vaccines is addressed in the Schedule footnotes.

The 2002 Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule has been approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (www.cdc.gov/nip/acip), the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.aap.org), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (www.aafp.org).

Free Training at Your Office!

To learn how to access patient records and report immunizations via personal computer and modem, call us at 212-676-2323.

Quarterly Feature: Practices of the Quarter

Boris Ripa, MD

According to Dr. Boris Ripa, "prevention is easier than treatment." He considers the CIR to be a useful tool to assist him in ensuring that his patients are fully immunized. Dr. Ripa and his staff serve a large immigrant population at their Brighton Beach, Brooklyn office. While most patients come with their immunization records, some patients do not have records when they first see Dr. Ripa. Once he begins immunizing them and reporting the immunizations

to the Registry, he no longer has to worry if a patient forgets his or her card. He and his staff use the CIR to identify which immunizations the patient has had and which are due.

Dr. Ripa says that once immunization information is entered in the CIR, he and his staff get something in return: easy access to records. He notes that entering immunizations via the computer is much faster than on paper and that accessing records from the computer is very simple. He also likes the fact that if charts are lost or his computer system is down, he can retrieve a child's record in one easy phone call to the CIR.

Office manager Olga Khabinskay is responsible for reporting immunizations to the CIR. Olga has established a system for promptly reporting immunizations by entering them on the day they are given. She likes the accuracy of

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Olga Khabinskay and Dr. Boris Ripa

Our Mission: To improve the immunization status of all NYC children by consolidating immunization information and sharing it with health care providers, families, and agencies concerned with children's health.

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the computer records and finds the “provider report” to be extremely useful. The report tells her which immunizations are due so that when a child comes in for an appointment, the doctor knows what to administer. When a child is immunized and the information is entered into the computer, Olga checks to see when the next immunizations are due and then schedules an appointment for that time.

Dr. Ripa, Olga, and the rest of the staff do a great job of ensuring the accuracy of CIR immunization records and making sure that their patients are fully immunized. Congratulations on a job well done!

Deniz Cereb, MD and Amelita Cereb, MD

At the pediatric office of Dr. Deniz Cereb and Dr. Amelita Cereb, the CIR has proven to be a valuable tool. Medical Assistant Sylvia Palazzolo is responsible for ensuring that immunization information is consistently and accurately reported to the CIR. The office’s preferred method of reporting is online via personal computer and modem. Sylvia finds this method to be much more efficient and faster than reporting on paper forms.

According to Sylvia, she designates certain days for entering immunizations into the CIR. First she generates a report from the office computer system that indicates which children have been immunized and then she enters immunizations for these children into the CIR, including immunizations given by other providers if this information is not already in the CIR. Sylvia finds that being able to use the CIR to print a report of a child’s immunization history is especially helpful when parents request

the information for school and camp. After printing out the report, it is stapled to the school or camp entry form, saving the work of having to fill out the form. This saves time and also ensures that everything is clearly legible.

Dr. Amelita Cereb says that Sylvia is extremely diligent about reporting immunizations to the CIR. Reporting to the CIR has become so much a part of the office routine that it blends in seamlessly. We at the CIR would like to thank Drs. Deniz and Amelita Cereb, Sylvia, and the other office staff for keeping the immunization records of their patients accurate and up-to-date.



Helpful Hints from the Offices of Dr. Ripa and Drs. Cereb

- Designate one person in the office to be in charge of reporting immunizations to the CIR.
- Designate a certain time of day to enter immunizations into the CIR.
- Print the “public report” for parents to use as an official immunization record for day care, school, and camp.
- Print the “provider report” to identify which immunizations are due now for a child.

them to take their child to the doctor to get the needed immunizations.

Maiko emphasizes that provider participation is crucial to the success of this project. During last year’s trial run, this collaboration with PCPs resulted in 21,000 immunization events being added to the CIR and 15,229 recall letters being sent to parents.

Maiko has always been interested in the health field but public health was especially appealing. She sees public health as health on a larger scale with many different facets in which someone can become involved. When not working, Maiko is usually doing one of her two favorite activities—snowboarding or Tae Kwon Do.

Get to know us!

Many individuals work to help you call the shots. Staff members featured here have contributed to the CIR in various ways.

Maiko Minami & the Immunization Recall Project

After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, where she majored in neurobiology and cognitive psychology, Maiko Minami moved to New York and began working as an epidemiologist with the CIR. She is currently coordinating the Medicaid Immunization Recall Project in partnership with the Department of Health Division of Health Care Access. This project uses the CIR to identify and outreach to under-immunized children enrolled in Medicaid managed care. Primary care physicians (PCPs) are asked to verify the records of children found not up-to-date according to the CIR and report any missing immunizations. Recall letters are then sent to parents to urge

Maiko

