

CIRnews

Spring
2003

Citywide Immunization Registry, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

We help you call the shots!



Lead Screening Information: Coming Soon to a Computer Near You!

An exciting new feature is coming soon to the Online Registry. In the near future, when you look up a patient in the Online Registry, you will be able to see both immunization and lead screening recommendations for your patients.

Lead poisoning remains a problem in New York City due to the widespread presence of deteriorating lead-based paint in much of the city's older housing.

The primary mission of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) is to facilitate medical and environmental interventions for children who have elevated blood lead levels.

LPPP works with health care providers, community organizations, and concerned citizens towards the goals of reducing the incidence of lead poisoning and increasing monitoring to assure that lead poisoned children receive optimal treatment.

By joining forces with LPPP, the CIR will make

it easier for providers to get information about children's lead screening histories and lead screening tests due. In order to make this happen, we are creating linkages between the LPPP and CIR databases, and expect to finish the work this summer.

Keep reading CIR news for updates on this exciting joint project.

HIPAA Alert!

HIPAA Regulations do NOT affect reporting to the CIR. Immunization Registries are NOT covered entities under the new HIPAA Regulations, so reporting is both permitted and required to stay in compliance with the NYC Health Code reporting mandate.

**Free
Training
at Your
Office!**

Have our staff train yours in reporting and retrieving immunization records via the Online Registry. Simply call us at

212-676-2323 (or 311)



PRACTICE OF THE QUARTER

Dr. Nissar Shaikh

The number of providers using the CIR has continued to grow since the CIR went live on the Internet last June. Dr. Nissar Shaikh and his staff exemplify the outstanding effort that continues to make the Online Registry a success.

This practice takes its responsibility to report very seriously. It ensures that immunizations given are reported within 14 days of administration, as mandated by the Health Code.

On average, Dr. Shaikh's practice vaccinates 20 patients a week. After Dr. Shaikh immunizes a patient, Ms. Annette Lozano, Office Assistant, looks the patient up in the Online Registry, reports the shots given that day, and reports any historical immunizations that are not already in the CIR. In the few cases when she can't find a patient, Ms. Lozano reports using paper forms.

This practice has been reporting Online since we launched in June 2002. They appreciate the



Dr. Nissar Shaikh and Annette Lozano

features which make working with the CIR more than just another reporting requirement: when a parent (or guardian) comes in looking for an immunization record for school, day care, or camp admission, the staff can just print out the record. According to Dr. Shaikh, "we are able to have another source of back up data available right away!"

Another favorite feature is the "view record" screen, which shows recommendations of immunizations due. This helps the practice to continue to provide quality care to their patients. Dr. Shaikh sums it up by saying, "we all have a common interest [to immunize New York City's children] and this is a tool that helps."

The CIR staff thanks Dr. Shaikh and staff for their work and commends them for their dedication to providing quality patient care.



James Salomon and Joshua Diaz

STAY CURRENT WITH THE LATEST NEWS!

Join us in our collaborative effort to improve immunization coverage rates among New York City's children. Announcing the next NYC DOHMH **Coalition for Immunization Initiatives Meeting** on Friday, **September 12**, 2003 at 125 Worth St. 3rd Floor Boardroom. For more information please call **(212) 676-2323** (or 311).

COLLEGE AIDES

The dedication of College Aides helps ensure the CIR phone lines are answered promptly. Our thanks to James Salomon, Joshua Diaz (above) Jaime Woody, Marshalene Mitchell, & Caroline Rivera (not shown) for their valuable help.

If you would like CIR brochures and posters for your office, call us at 212-676-2323 (or 311).