

CIR News

We help you call the shots.

THE CITYWIDE IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Reporting to Go Paperless in 2008

Starting January 1, 2008,* New York State requires that providers **electronically** report immunizations administered to patients younger than 19 years.

New York City providers should continue reporting electronically to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) by:

- Using the Online Registry, or
- Sending electronic files extracted from billing, encounter or clinical information systems.

Providers with offices outside NYC must electronically report immunizations administered to patients younger than 19 years to the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS).

Questions about the new electronic reporting requirements?

Call (212) 676-2323.

* NYC providers who report on paper will have until January 1, 2009, to set up access for electronic reporting to the CIR.

More Providers Are Using the Online Registry

A growing number of providers are using the Online Registry. This year, monthly immunizations reported online exceeded last year's numbers by more than 48%. Patient histories viewed per month in 2006 increased by more than 58%.

Providers say they're using the Online Registry more often because of recent enhancements. In addition to offering printouts of patient medical forms for school (211S), day care, camp and WIC, the Registry now allows you to:

- Readily view and update the immunization status of a patient
- Add new patients
- Customize your patient list
- Use advanced search features to search by medical record number, Medicaid number or parents' name.

The Online Registry makes it faster and easier to report, helps ensure patient immunizations are up-to-date and helps providers meet the Vaccines for Children's (VFC's) 90% reporting requirement, guaranteeing eligibility for full shipment of future VFC vaccines.

Ready to set up online access? Call (212) 676-2323.

Key Messages for 2007-2008 Flu Season



- Immunize as soon as you receive vaccine.
- Flu vaccine is plentiful this season. Don't stop vaccinating.
- Immunize patients when they come in for any office visit.
- Immunize children from age 6 months until their 5th birthday.
- Immunize children between 5 and 18 years with certain long-term medical conditions, such as asthma and diabetes.
- Children younger than 9 years who are getting their first flu shot should receive 2 doses; those who received only 1 dose of flu vaccine in their first flu season should get 2 doses in their second year of vaccination.

To Order Vaccine

- VFC-eligible patients, call the VFC program at (212) 447-8175.
- Non-VFC eligible patients, call your distributor, the Health Department's Provider Access Line at 1-866-692-3641 or visit nyc.gov/health/flu.

Health Care Workers: Protect your patients, your family and yourself. Get a flu shot now!

CIR Best Practices
CIR Honor Roll

The Bureau of Immunization is pleased to honor the following providers who have improved their CIR coverage and met or exceeded the 90% coverage rate for 2-year-olds for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series by chart review:

Anne Burrowes, M.D.
Caesar Preposi, M.D.
 Bronx Lebanon Hospital
 Bronx, NY

Jack Kabariti, M.D.
 Pediatrics Care PC
 Brooklyn, NY

Subhendi Kundu, M.D.
 Maimonides Medical Center
 Brooklyn, NY

Vicki Papadeas, M.D.
 LaGuardia Place Pediatrics
 New York, NY

Thomas Powers, M.D.
 Marine Park Pediatrics
 Brooklyn, NY

Murli Purswani, M.D.
 Bronx Lebanon Hospital
 Bronx, NY

Chyne C. Tan, M.D.
 New York, NY

Chung Yoon, M.D.
 Woodside, NY



A Valuable Service

Jordan Meyers, M.D.
 Millennium Pediatrics, Brooklyn, NY



"It seemed like it was going to be a huge task," says Jordan Meyers, M.D., who wanted to produce a list of patients due for immunizations.

Given that Dr. Meyers is lead pediatrician at the 6,000-patient practice Millennium Pediatrics in southeast Brooklyn, "a huge task" was an understatement. Two-thirds (4,000) of his patients, ranging from infants to young adults, receive immunizations annually. "I thought getting an accurate list together was going to involve a great deal of work," he says.

In March 2005, Dr. Meyers called the Bureau of Immunization for help. The Bureau's Assessment Unit had recently reviewed Millennium's medical charts, which showed that 96% of 2-year-olds had received the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series. The percentage reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) was significantly lower.

Personnel at the Health Department's Immunization Improvement Spread Project began sending Dr. Meyers quarterly listings of patients due for immunizations. They also sent reports on Millennium's Online Registry user activity, CIR coverage rates and Vaccines for Children (VFC) doses reported to the CIR.

"We immediately went to work to reach out to the parents of our patients who were due for shots," he says. "We also made a dedicated effort to record immunizations given in the Online Registry." Within four months, Millennium's CIR coverage rate improved from 27% to 55%. By the end of 2006, the practice's CIR coverage rate for 2-year-olds had increased to 72%.

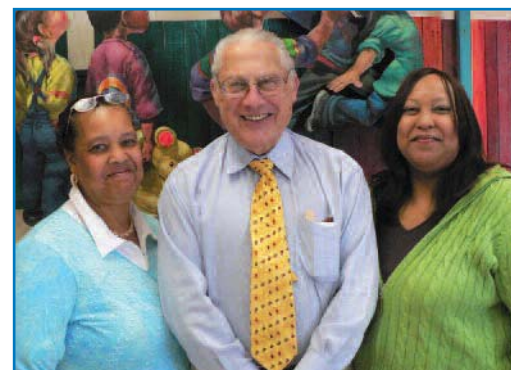
Now, Millennium's supervising medical assistant, Martine Chassagne, simply locates patients' immunization records through the Online Registry. "It's especially easy when I search by the mother's date of birth," she says.

"Online immunization histories make our lives much easier," she adds. Millennium's staff members save time by using the Online Registry's medical forms—already filled in with patient immunization and provider information for school, day care, camp and the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program.

After each medical visit, a Millennium staff member reviews the patient's chart to make sure that current and past immunizations are updated in the Online Registry. Both Martine Chassagne and office manager Yolene Chassagne make certain that all of Millennium's patient charts and immunization reports have a CIR number. "First the CIR is checked and then staff can file the patient's chart," Martine Chassagne says.

By consistently reporting past and current immunizations through the Online Registry (including 100% of the VFC doses it receives), Millennium has maintained its CIR coverage rate and eligibility for full shipment of VFC vaccines throughout 2007.

Finding patients in the Online Registry, making sure that they receive the immunizations they need and completing their immunization histories has tremendous value. "And when it's done every day, it isn't a huge task at all," Dr. Meyers concludes.



From left to right: Yolene Chassagne, Office Manager, Jordan Meyers, M.D. and Martine Chassagne, Supervising Medical Assistant.