The National Health Information Infrastructure Conference – July 2003

We want to create a system that will prove invaluable in facilitating the automated exchange of clinical information needed to protect patient safety, detect emerging public health threats, better coordinate patient care. Current data is critical for decision-making.”

Secretary of Health Tommy Thompson

At this same conference several speakers identified immunization registries as examples of the successful implementation of cutting edge health care technology.

“Please join me in our mission to assure that all of America's children are fully immunized on time by calling your local health department to inquire about how you can sign up to share data with the registry”

Breahlynn Carter
Co-founder, Every Child By Two

For more information visit:
http://www.ecbt.org/healthplanguide.html

Created by the Managed Care Organization/Immunization Registry Data Exchange Committee of Every Child By Two (ECBT) and the American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA)

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Is Quality More Than Just a Number?

Your community’s immunization registry
Registries Offer Many Benefits to Health Plans and their Participating Providers. They can:

- Save time and money
- Increase HEDIS® rates
- Reduce dollars spent in over-vaccination
- Reduce or eliminate the need for health plan staff to conduct manual chart pulls to collect immunization data in physician offices
- Facilitate disease prevention
- Generate timely immunization reports (e.g. HEDIS, CASA and other quality improvement initiatives)
- Support the concept of a medical home by making accurate immunization data available to primary care physicians
- Increase immunization data quality and completeness
- Improve quality of care and service delivery
- Increase provider and member satisfaction by providing accurate and timely immunization records
- Increase purchaser satisfaction by reducing employee absences for care of sick children
- Allow for health plan comparison by benefits managers, increasing public relations value of registries
- Improve quality and timeliness of immunization delivery by providing up-to-date ACIP vaccine recommendations and intervals
- Provide official immunization documentation cards to parents for school, child care and camp enrollment, and for personal record keeping
- Provide appointment reminder and recall postcards
- Allow expedited tracking of vaccines in case of vaccine shortages and during manufacturer recalls
- Registries are also working to integrate with other systems (e.g., newborn screening and WIC)

Benefits to the Bottom Line

Twenty-one percent (21%) of 19-35 month old children have received at least one dose of vaccine they did not need. This adds up to an estimated cost of $15 million, not including administration costs (National Immunization Survey, 1998). Registries significantly decrease the chances of over-immunizing plan members, saving the health plan money and the child discomfort.

“We felt the use of CHILD Profile’s registry data greatly widened our net for capturing immunizations on our members in the 2001 HEDIS® reporting year...and we believe its use lowered our costs and time for medical record reviews by providing vaccine dates we didn’t have in our own administrative data set.”

Jody Falsworth
Strategic Information Coordinator
Columbia United Providers
Vancouver, Washington

As families move in and out of public and private health care systems, parents, providers and health plans can use registries to ensure that members receive timely immunizations and proper treatment. Registries collect immunization data on children regardless of where they receive their vaccines. Since immunization records are consolidated in a central database, health plans can accurately assess the immunization status of members, thereby increasing the immunization HEDIS® rates of the plan.

Registries can automatically generate notices to families reminding them about health care/immunization appointments. This will allow your health plan to better allocate resources towards other outreach activities.

1 HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

What if you devised a method to raise your health plan’s immunization HEDIS® rates?

What if you reduced or eliminated the need for on-site visits to conduct immunization assessments?

What if you found a way to ease the burden of health care providers and improve their ability to deliver timely immunizations?

What if you could be credited with improving the quality of care for the children within your health plan?

Just imagine that all the while, you could be saving your health plan time and money!