

SHOTStracker



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If you would like more information
about how you can participate in
Florida SHOTS please contact

The Florida Department of
Health Bureau of
Immunization

Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719
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FAX (850) 922-4195
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I-TRENDS

Helpful Hints for Implementing Florida SHOTS

Florida SHOTS offers many great benefits to participating providers, including free 24/7 access to patients' immunization histories, immediate identification of previously reported contraindications, and algorithms that use the most recent recommendations for childhood immunizations. Automated 680 blue forms for school and day-care attendance, forecasts of the next required immunization, and reminder and recall (which helps you notify parents whose children are due or past due for immunizations) are also great perks. But how can you get the most value from the system and incorporate Florida SHOTS into an already hectic daily routine?

Jeanine Fuentes and Joelisa Sherman, regional coordinators for Florida SHOTS, have gathered the following helpful implementation tips from offices that are maximizing Florida SHOTS.

INCORPORATING FLORIDA SHOTS DATA ENTRY IN THE OFFICE FLOW

Option 1: When preparing charts for the next day's appointments, go ahead and add or update the

Florida SHOTS demographic and known immunization history records for all patients who are being seen for well-child visits.

Option 2: On a daily basis, give the charts of patients who received a vaccine that day to the check-out office staff member, or the person who inputs billing, to input the shot information into Florida SHOTS. That staff member is already working in front of a computer, which allows them easy access to the database.

Option 3: Place the records of children who have received vaccines on a designated shelf or area to be entered later into Florida SHOTS. All staff members or designated staff members can be responsible for working on the "to do" pile throughout the day, or at the end of the day.

Option 4: When processing requests for 680 blue forms, take them directly to Florida SHOTS to complete necessary missing information in the patient's record, and print out the electronic version of the form instead of writing out a card.

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Special Report

Importance of State Immunization Registries Following Disasters: A Case Study

Editor's Note:

We'd like to thank Darci Lolley for contributing the following case study to Susan Lincicome, Director of Florida SHOTS. Darci emailed the details to Susan with a note thanking the Florida SHOTS help desk staff. Darci says of the experience: *"It was great being able to tell so many parents that their children had already been immunized, so they didn't need another vaccine!"*

Escambia County had two shelters open to accommodate people evacuated due to Hurricane Katrina. One of these shelters was operated by a local church and housed 78 people, approximately one-third of which were children.

On September 21, 2005, the county health department director received notification that

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Special Report

Importance of State Immunization Registries Following Disasters: A Case Study

chickenpox had been diagnosed in two children living in the church shelter. Helen and I met Escambia's Epi Team at the shelter and took histories on 49 of the 78 people currently listed as residents. (The others did not return to the shelter.)

Only one parent had immunization records from Tulane for her two children—the elder had documentation of VZV immunization and the other was too young to have received VZV. All other parents were questioned regarding their own history of chickenpox, any history of chickenpox among their children, and whether their children had been immunized to prevent chickenpox.

Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama all have kindergarten and child-care requirements for Varicella (VZV). In an attempt to locate history of VZV for these children, I contacted the Florida SHOTS help desk and spoke with Mike Flanagan and Scott LeGardeur. Both realized the urgency of the situation and provided great assistance. We searched for records in Louisiana,

Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. (One child's record was found in Florida SHOTS because the Hillsborough County Health Department had fully immunized the little boy prior to his move to New Orleans!) History of Varicella vaccination was found for 14 children from Louisiana and one child from Alabama.

Based on this information, 17 people in the shelter were determined to be susceptible to Varicella and were offered immunizations. Fourteen children and three adults were immunized at the shelter by the Escambia CHD Immunization Program's Mobile Immunization Unit. One of the children vaccinated was born in 2002. The rest were born between 1992 and 1998, meaning that they entered school before the VZV requirement went into effect.

Since September 21, only one other person (an adult) has become ill with Varicella. Her three children were part of the group immunized the day before she got sick. All three of these children stayed home from school until the incubation period passed.

You Said It

It's always nice to know what others who are enrolled in Florida SHOTS have to say about the program. So each issue we'll share with you what some of our top users are saying about the registry. This feature interview was conducted with April Stevens, Clinical Coordinator, Healthpoint Medical Group, in Brandon, whose office enrolled in February 2005.

What do you think is the best feature of the registry for your office?

What I like the best is the access it gives us to find out immunizations of children who are new to us or who have received shots from the health department. About one in five of our new patients come in without shots records, and we can find most of them in the registry.

What do you think is the best feature of the registry for your patients?

Before Florida SHOTS, if patients didn't have their shot records, they had to complete a medical release form, and we had to try to get the information from their previous doctors or duplicate the shots because parents didn't know whether they had them. Now, when the children are in the system, we avoid all that.

Also, we automatically register every child who is scheduled for a well visit, in preparation for their visit. We enter any shots they have had previously, and we add the shots they've had that day, and give them a blue form right away.

If another doctor's office were to call and ask you why they should enroll in the registry, what would you say?

We'd recommend Florida SHOTS to anyone. It's a basic tool we use every day. Our experience with Florida SHOTS has been great. We love it.

Did You Know?

"I'm registered" stickers are a helpful way to mark a patient's chart and determine at a glance that they've been entered in Florida SHOTS. Stickers are available free of charge from Florida SHOTS. Call 1.877.888.SHOT (7468) to order.

Tech Tips

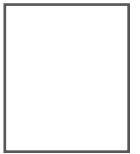
Q: Do you have a cheat sheet that tells me the full name for each vaccine abbreviation used in Florida SHOTS' vaccine drop-down menu?

A: Yes! Appendix E of the Florida SHOTS' user guide lists the Florida SHOTS drop-down menu name, the vaccine name, the brand name, and the manufacturer. The user guide is accessible from the left menu in Florida SHOTS.

Top 5 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 5 by Daily Usage" chart as of November 4, 2005. Thank you for your support of the registry!

1. Pediatric Professional Associates – Miami
2. Alliance Pediatrics – Gainesville
3. Diagnostic Clinic—Clearwater
4. Pediatric Associates of Lakeland
5. Carithers Pediatric Group, PP—Jacksonville



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HELPFUL HINTS from page 1

I-TRENDS

Helpful Hints for Implementing Florida SHOTS

Organizational Tips

1. After a patient has been added to Florida SHOTS, mark the outside of the chart with an “I’m registered” sticker or symbol. This is an easy way to determine at a glance whether a chart has been entered in the system. Stickers are available free of charge from Florida SHOTS.

Call 1.877.888.SHOT (7468) to order.

2. As shots are updated in Florida SHOTS, in the physical chart make a check next to or highlight the vaccines that have been electronically recorded. When doing future updates, it will serve as a quick reference to what has already been entered. Or better yet, use the Florida SHOTS printout as your physical copy of the vaccination record for the child’s chart.

Fast-Forward Implementation Procedures Used

1. If your office pulls the charts prior to the day of the vaccine appointment, take a little extra time to compare your physical record with the electronic record in Florida SHOTS, and update where needed for all patients.

2. Some offices have chosen to tackle initial, historic immunization information based on patient age. For instance, enter all records for patients who are ages 0 to 17 months first, then 18 to 24 months second, then 25 to 36 months,

before moving on to the remaining patient population. This is a good way to ensure that you capture the 0 to 2-year-old population first (those children being most actively immunized) but in manageable increments.

3. If you feel it’s critical to get all of your patients’ historic information entered quickly (which is not required), hire part-time help for a month to make sure all records are in the registry. You may also want to contact your local Kiwanis Chapter for help since they are heavily invested in helping increase immunization efforts within each community.

Computer Hardware

1. Having a computer located in an area that is near where the vaccine is administered will help when trying to locate patient vaccine records from other practices, as well as allow 680 blue forms to be printed quickly. (The computer does not need to be solely used for Florida SHOTS.)

2. Depending on the practice volume, designating one printer just for Florida SHOTS, especially in the summer months leading up to the back-to-school rush, can be helpful.

If you’d like to share additional techniques that have really helped you to implement the system in your office, we would love to hear from you. Email flshots@DOH.state.fl.us or call 1.877.888.SHOT (7468).

Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to the 240 practices that enrolled during the months of October and November 2005. Recent enrollee Brandy Rietsch, Medical Assistant at Dr. Fialko’s office in Crystal River, says this about Florida SHOTS:

“We found out about the registry from our local health department. We chose to enroll because of the ease of access to get 680 blue forms and so patients will have their information on the system if they need to transfer to other offices.

Our experience with the training was great. So far, we’re thrilled. Currently, when we pull charts to verify insurance for the next day’s appointments, we enter information for all of the scheduled well-child appointments. At the end of that day, we update the well-child immunizations given that day, and if anyone calls for a blue form, we enter those shots too.”

YES, please contact me to schedule a visit with a regional coordinator to enroll in Florida SHOTS.

Sign me up for electronic copies of *SHOTS Tracker*.

EMAIL 1: _____

EMAIL 2: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

OFFICE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

COUNTY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

NL:V1:110

How Do I Enroll in Florida SHOTS?

SIGN UP TODAY!

Fill out this information card and mail it back to us. Please include proper postage.

Call **(877) 888-SHOT**, or send an email to the help desk at **flshots@doh.state.fl.us** if you need more information.

So many enrollment options... and they're all FREE!



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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719



NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE:

Easy Enrollment Form

www.flshots.com/Providers.html

Florida SHOTS Enrollment: Fast. Easy. Free.

Florida SHOTS (State Health Online Tracking System) is a free, statewide, centralized electronic immunization registry that helps health care providers and parents keep track of immunization records. Enroll today at <http://www.flshots.com>.

E-Tracker

To receive this newsletter via email as well as regular mail, please fill out and return the tear-off card included in this newsletter. Include as many email addresses as you would like to receive the newsletter.

