

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

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I-TRENDS

Best Immunization Practices Facilitated by Florida SHOTS

OVERVIEW:

Portions of this article were excerpted from "Standards for Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices," *Pediatrics*, Vol. 112, No. 4, October 2003, by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee. The original article lists 17 "best immunization practices" that represent the most desirable immunization practices that health care professionals should strive to achieve.

In 1992, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), in collaboration with the ad hoc Working Group for the Development of Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practices, developed a set of standards as to what constitutes the most essential and desirable immunization policies and practices. These standards were endorsed by a variety of medical and public health organizations and represented an important element in our national strategy to protect America's children against vaccine-preventable diseases.

By adopting these standards, health care professionals can enhance their own policies



Florida SHOTS helps providers implement important national immunization standards. And it's free!

and practices, making achievement of vaccination objectives for children and adolescents as outlined in *Healthy People 2010* (a nationwide health promotion and disease

SEE PRACTICES page 2

Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to the 172 practices that enrolled during the month of January 2005. Here's what one recent enrollee has to say about Florida SHOTS:

"We have so many patients that come to the office without shots records, and it's nice to be able to pull many of those patients up on the registry and see their vaccination history," says Christie Hood, Nurse, Dr. Kennessa Hugger's office, Tallahassee. "We just started using the system at the end of January. It was very easy for us to enroll. The Florida SHOTS trainer came out for 45 minutes, went over the steps, let me practice some entries, and left me with several great pointers on shortcuts and time savers. Later, when I was using the system, I made some

mistakes logging in, and their tech support called me to see if they could help."

Asked what she would tell another doctor's office about why they should enroll in the registry, Christie says, "Enroll because of the time you can save. Each time you need a blue form, you can print one off of the computer and not have to sit and write dates. Rather than try to enter all of our patients into the system at one time, we enter patients as they come in. After Dr. Hugger sees a patient, I get the chart and enter the patient's information before sending the chart back to be filed. The process has worked very smoothly for us."

Call (877) 888-SHOT for more information about Florida SHOTS or log onto www.flshots.com to access the electronic enrollment form for immediate enrollment.

I-TRENDS

Best Immunization Practices

prevention agenda from the US Department of Health and Human Services) both feasible and likely. Achieving these objectives will improve the health and welfare of all children and adolescents as well as the communities in which they live.

This *SHOTS Tracker* article focuses on those standards for which an immunization registry may serve as a tool to help meet the relevant standard.

THE STANDARDS:

Health Care Professionals Review the Vaccination and Health Status of Patients at Every Encounter to Determine Which Vaccines Are Indicated

Addressed by Florida SHOTS' Automated Forecasting of Immunizations Due

Health care professionals should review the vaccination status of all patients at all health care visits to minimize the number of missed opportunities to vaccinate. This review should determine whether the patient has received any vaccinations elsewhere or is at high risk for disease or under-vaccination. This information should be documented in the patient's chart and preventive health summary. Health care professionals who do not offer vaccinations should refer patients to a primary care provider for needed vaccinations.

Health Care Professionals Assess for and Follow Only Medically Accepted Contraindications

Addressed by Florida SHOTS' Recording of Contraindications in the System

Withholding vaccinations because of medical concerns that are not contraindications results in missed opportunities for prevention. Health care professionals should ask about any condition or circumstance that might indicate that a vaccination should be withheld or delayed and about previous adverse events temporally associated with any vaccination. Health care professionals should support their decisions about what constitutes a contraindication or deferral for each vaccine by consulting the *Guide to Contraindications to Vaccinations* published by the CDC (available at www.cdc.gov/nip/recs/contraindications.pdf); the harmonized recommendations of the ACIP, the AAP, and the AAFP (available at: www.cdc.gov); the AAP's *Red Book* and other

relevant recommendations; Vaccine Information Statements; and manufacturers' package inserts. Contraindications and deferrals should be documented in the medical record.

Health Care Professionals Simultaneously Administer as Many Indicated Vaccine Doses as Possible

Addressed by Florida SHOTS' System Set of Complex Algorithms That Recommends Vaccines That Can Be Provided Simultaneously During a Visit

Administering vaccines simultaneously (at the same visit), in accordance with recommendations from the ACIP, the AAP, and the AAFP, is safe, effective and indicated. Although the immunization schedule provides age flexibility for administering certain vaccine doses, simultaneous administration decreases the number of visits needed and the potential for missed doses and enables earlier protection.

Systems Are Used to Remind Parents, Patients, and Health Care Professionals When Vaccinations Are Due and to Recall Those Who Are Overdue

Addressed by Florida SHOTS' Reminder/Recall Capabilities

Evidence demonstrates that reminder/recall systems improve vaccination coverage. Patient reminder/recall interventions inform individuals that they are due or overdue for specific vaccinations. Patient reminders/recalls can be mailed or communicated by telephone. Similarly, provider reminder/recall systems alert health care professionals when vaccines are due or overdue.

Office- or Clinic-Based Patient Record Reviews and Vaccination Coverage Assessments Are Performed Annually

Addressed by Future System Enhancements of Florida SHOTS That Will Provide a Report of Immunization Levels Within a Practice for That Practice's Use

Evidence shows that assessments are most effective in improving vaccination coverage in a practice when they combine chart reviews to determine coverage with the provision of results to health care professionals and staff. Coverage should be assessed regularly so that reasons for low coverage in the practice or in a subgroup of patients are identified and addressed.

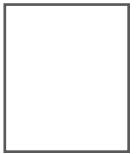
Did You Know?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that every \$1 spent on immunization saves \$6.30 in medical costs, with an aggregate savings of \$10.5 billion. Factor in indirect costs (i.e., missed work days, death and disability) and those savings jump to \$18.40 per \$1 spent, or \$42 billion.

Tech Tips

Q: Why should I use Florida SHOTS to produce blue 680 forms required for school attendance when I can buy this function as part of a medical software package?

A: There are many important reasons. Florida SHOTS is absolutely free. Medical software packages cost money to buy and to update. Each time vaccine schedules and algorithms are updated, so is the SHOTS system—at no cost to your office. Also, it is illegal to reproduce blue 680 forms from any private software program. This is because the blue forms are produced under the statutory and administrative rule authority of the Florida Department of Health and coordinated with the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Families. It is legal to run a purchased software program that fills in the blanks of a 680, but not one that reproduces the entire form. Lastly, printing blue forms is just one feature of the SHOTS registry. Others include forecasting and reminder/recall functions. Reminder/recall features help parents keep their kids healthy!



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You Said It

It's always nice to know that others who walk daily in your professional shoes are finding benefits from being enrolled in this program. So each month we'll share with you what some of our users are saying about Florida SHOTS. This month's feature interview was conducted with Tracy Lents, Certified Medical Assistant, Diagnostic Clinic, Clearwater.

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

Florida SHOTS is a convenient, accurate way to have immunization information at the touch of a button. A lot of parents don't have this information with them, and we can find many of their children in the registry.

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

The ability to turn around blue forms so quickly is terrific. Before the registry, we required 24 to 48 hours' notice to create these forms, because we had to call up the chart from downstairs, review it, and fill out the forms. Now, we look in the system, and any patient we've seen since May 6, 2004 (enrollment date), can come in right away to pick up the 680. Parents have noticed the change.

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

It's more convenient for patients not to have to wait for information and it's better for the doctors to know that they have accurate information. If a patient's record has a red star in the registry, the doctor knows that a shot was given too late or too early, and this gives doctors immediate access to immunization decisions. They don't have to research it but can make a shot decision on the spot.

Is there any other information you would like to share about your experience with Florida SHOTS?

Some doctors' offices look at the registry and think it's such a huge task to get all the charts input. Our approach to entering records is to incorporate it in the normal flow of the day. As we get our charts ready for the next day's patients, we enter all of their shots in the system regardless of the reason for their visits. Then we highlight the shots on the chart in yellow. Now when we open the chart, we know at a glance whether we've already entered the patient in the system. When we first started using the registry, it meant entering 30 to 40 records a day. Today, I only had to enter 7. Just do it a little bit at a time in manageable increments.

Now when we open the chart, we know at a glance whether we've already entered the patient in the system.

Top 20 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 20 by Daily Usage" chart as of the month of January. Thank you for your support of the registry!

1. Diagnostic Clinic
2. David Weiss, MD, PA
3. UF Pediatric Primary Care
4. Lynne Ellis, MD, PA
5. USF Pediatrics
6. Children's Health Center
7. Health Resource Alliance ZH
8. North Florida Pediatrics Associates
9. Healthy Steps Pediatrics
10. Sunrise Pediatrics II
11. North Florida Pediatrics
12. ORH Pediatric Outpatient Practice
13. Askowitz and Dangond, MD, PA
14. Lake Mary Pediatrics
15. Sunrise Pediatrics I
16. Dr. Marc S. Berger
17. Florida Keys Pediatric Center
18. Medped Associates
19. Pediatric Partners Zephyrhills
20. Halifax Keech Health Center

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: _____

EMAIL 3: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

COUNTY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

NL:V1:13

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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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.

