

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
PHONE (877) 888-SHOT
FAX (850) 922-4195
E-MAIL fishots@DOH.state.fl.us



I-TRENDS

Study Finds Time Savings from Immunization Registries

This article was excerpted from "Using an Immunization Registry: Effect on Practice Costs and Time," Ambulatory Pediatrics, pages 34-40, Vol. 4, No. 1, January-February 2004, by Judith E. Glazner, MS, et al.

INTRODUCTION

Immunization registries can consolidate immunizations records scattered among different providers, allowing immunization documentation for legal purposes, generation of needed-immunization lists, inventory management, and outreach for underimmunized children. They have been endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and health professionals as a means of sustaining high immunization rates. However, some providers perceive the cost of registry use as a barrier to participation. We sought to determine the effects of registry use on cost and time.

[Previous] [s]tudies that addressed provider costs sometimes calculated offset costs, those costs avoided by virtue of participating in a registry. These costs included prevention of overimmunization and not having to manually retrieve records for school entry or child care, generate "behind" lists, or produce vaccine use reports.

The current study addresses providers' labor costs that could be affected by participation in a registry. We included public health agencies, CHCs [community health centers], private rural family practices, and private urban pediatric practices.

To determine the net cost of registry participation for providers, the current study examines the full range of immunization-related activities that occur during and in preparation

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Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to the 89 practices that enrolled during the month of February 2005. Here's what one recent enrollee has to say about Florida SHOTS:

Norma Bruce, Director of Clinical Operations, Premier Community HealthCare Group, Inc., Dade City, says their practice decided to enroll in this centralized immunization registry because of their "need to ensure patients get appropriate shots and do not get duplicate shots." Says Sheila Green, Technology Specialist, "Online enrollment was quick and easy, and training and support are superior!"

Roberta Schmidt, Data Tracker (Zephyrhills location), adds: "Any time I have had a problem they are right there to help. Offices should enroll so they have accurate records for their patients and to ensure that they are giving shots accurately."

Monica Dunbar, Data Tracker (Dade City location), also recommends other practices enroll in Florida SHOTS. "It would be beneficial to them because it would give them up-to-date information about shots. If a patient came in without their shot records, in a matter of minutes they would be able to tell if the patient



MONICA DUNBAR, SHEILA GREEN AND ROBERTA SCHMITT OF PREMIER COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE GROUP, INC.

was due any shots. It would greatly benefit all Florida providers if all doctor's offices and clinics participated in Florida SHOTS, because shot records are only as complete as the information put in."

Terekita Furman, LPN (Dade City location), concludes: "Our Dade City pediatrics office is currently using the SHOTS program and found it helps us keep the patient flow going, as well as expedites information the physician requests with little wait. It is user friendly and makes a great difference in our office."

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 month we'll share with you what some of our top users are saying about the registry.

This month's feature interview was conducted with Julie Uhrmacher, Receptionist, Dr. David Weiss's office, Jacksonville. Dr. Weiss's office enrolled in Florida SHOTS in early 2004.

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

The patients' shots are just a click away. The registry prints out the shot record neatly instead of us writing it, and it's quick and easy to use.

For patients who are new and whose parents don't have their shot record, nine out of ten times Florida SHOTS has them in the system already. It saves us from having to call the previous doctor and saves the parents from searching for their kids' shot records.

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

The wait time is less when parents want forms for school.

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

If they have problems like we do with parents forgetting their child's shot record, we have seen that Florida SHOTS most likely has it on file already.

The wait time is cut in half once your office is online and all the patients are on Florida SHOTS. So when the doctor asks for a shot record or official forms (like the DH 680) to be filled out, the information is just a click away—no writing or searching for time to fill the shots out.

Did You Know?

Immunization records are confidential medical information. According to Florida Statute 456.057, health care providers involved in the care of a patient may share their records with the patients' other providers. Thus, information like immunization records may be shared between medical professionals without express written consent. Florida SHOTS is HIPAA-exempt.

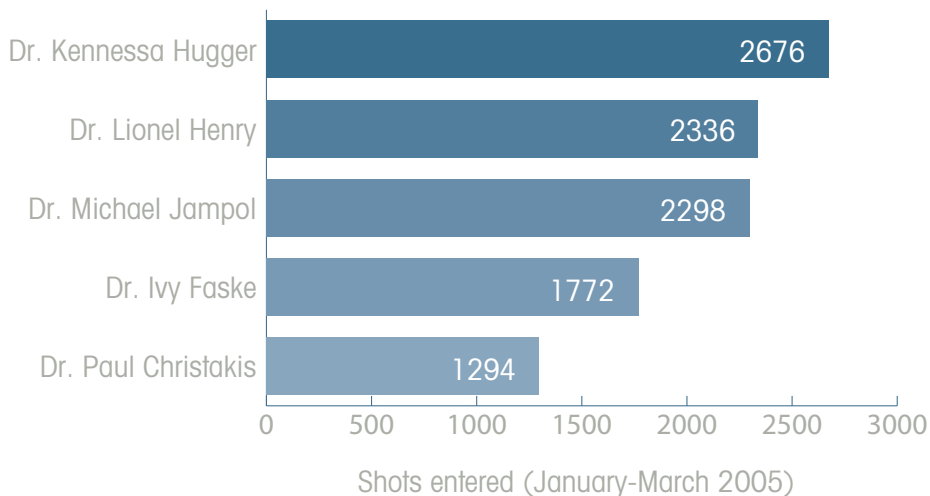
Tech Tips

Q. What is opting out of Florida SHOTS?

A. Florida is an opt-in state, which means that, by statute, all children born in Florida on or after January 1, 2003, are included in Florida SHOTS. The records are received at the central registry from Vital Statistics birth data loads. In addition, any child receiving services from a county health department or other health care provider that participates as an authorized system user has their immunization records input into Florida SHOTS. Health care providers should let parents know that they may opt out of immunization registry participation by posting an opt-out form in their offices for parents to review. If parents choose to opt out of Florida SHOTS, their child is still in the system, but the information is only available to their child's doctor. Their child's information cannot be viewed by another provider or by schools. To opt back in, the parents must submit a written "opt in" request to Florida SHOTS.

Top 5 New Providers Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for being our top 5 new providers for shots entered in January through March 2005. Each of these practices enrolled in January. Thank you for your support of the registry!





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for a child's office visit, including activities that could be affected by participation in a registry (e.g., time spent reviewing the patient's medical record to determine immunization status). Hence, this study measures a wider range of visit-related costs and cost offsets for clinicians than have been included in other studies.

With identical forms, public health agency, CHC, and rural private practice staff kept track of time spent on vaccination-related activities for one calendar month during 1997 and 2001; urban practices kept such records with identical forms for one calendar month in 1997 and a calendar week during 2002.

One new data collection form for measuring time spent on registry-related activities was completed by practices in the post-registry period. It was designed to elicit information regarding time spent on registry activities after the registry was fully operational within the practice. Much of this time involved updating the registry with patient demographic data (primarily for new patients) and vaccinations given.

Data collection forms for practice staff specifically asked for time spent on

The findings of this study suggest to private practices that registry participation can provide them a net benefit by making the vaccination process more efficient and therefore less costly.

vaccination-related activities that occurred during and before each visit in which a vaccination was administered. For nonphysician staff, actual hourly salary and benefits costs were obtained. A CRISP [Colorado Rural Immunization Services Project] nurse interviewed each physician once during each study period (preregistry and postregistry periods) with a standard interview form about vaccination activities performed during a typical well-child visit, including reviewing the record; completing the "superbill," immunization logs, and shot records; providing vaccine information to parents; and obtaining parental consent.

The participating practices provided information on 1,335 shots given to 610 children in the preregistry period, and 2,244 given to 991 children in the postregistry period.

In the postregistry period, [private practice] nursing time spent on vaccinations (both immunization-related and nonroutine activities) declined markedly (4.8 minutes or 40%), more than making up for the average of 3.4 minutes per shot spent on registry-related activities, thereby reducing total time spent on immunization.

CONCLUSION

Public health agencies are committed to registry participation, which is seen as an important way to improve the vaccination process and sustain high rates of immunization, a public health priority. They face different incentives from those of private practices, which are often small businesses that must meet payroll and expense demands each month. These practices must carefully weigh the benefits of each new activity they are asked to perform against the time (cost) required to perform it. The findings of this study suggest to private practices that registry participation can provide them a net benefit by making the vaccination process more efficient and therefore less costly.

- 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:I4

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 online immunization registry that helps health care providers and parents keep track of immunization records. Enroll today at <http://www.flshots.com>.

E-Tracker

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