

SHOTStracker

VOL 2
ISSUE 2

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

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I-TRENDS

Study Makes Case for Data Upload

The following information was excerpted from "How Complete Are Immunization Registries? The Philadelphia Story," Ambulatory Pediatrics, Volume 6, Number 1, 21 January-February 2006, by Maureen S. Kolasa, RN, MPH; Andrew P. Chilkatowsky, BA; Kevin R. Clarke, MD; James P. Lutz, MPA.

Health care providers and parents face difficult challenges in keeping children up to date (UTD) for immunizations. The immunization schedule is increasingly complex. Currently, 22 immunizations are recommended for infants by 18 months of age, and this number could triple by 2020. Among children 35 months of age, 22% have seen 2 or more immunization providers, and almost a quarter of immunizations were not administered by the last provider of care. One reason for this is that families frequently relocate and change medical providers. These factors make it difficult for parents and providers to ensure that children are vaccinated appropriately. More than 25% of children age 19–35 months are not UTD for all recommended vaccines, and 10.6% receive at least one unnecessary dose of vaccine.

Immunization registries help to address the challenges of keeping children UTD for vaccinations. Registries provide computerized systems for maintaining information from multiple providers on children's vaccinations within a geographic area. Providers can use registries to determine children's vaccination histories and to determine vaccinations due. The Healthy People 2010 objectives include enrollment of 95% of children age 5 years or younger in a confidential population-based immunization registry.

The completeness of immunization registry data directly impacts registry usefulness. Health care providers should be able to quickly check the registry to determine the need for immunizations during preventative or acute care visits. A major obstacle to meeting this goal is lack of widespread provider participation in registries, resulting in incomplete records. Incomplete immunization records further discourage private provider participation and use of registry data. To identify barriers to the usefulness of and participation in the Philadelphia (Pa) KIDS Immunization Registry, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health evaluated the completeness of registry data by provider type and method of data entry into the registry.

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Pediatric Practice Dives into Data Upload

What would it be like if your practice management software could feed immunization information directly into Florida SHOTS, eliminating the need to manually enter data into the registry? As one practice is discovering, it's great! This is their story.

Pam Roy, MSM, is the administrator for Pediatric Associates of Orlando, P.A., a practice that gives 4,000 to 5,000 shots a year. In the past, Pam was reluctant to participate in Florida SHOTS, because she thought there was redundancy in having to manually enter data into the registry.

Then Katrina hit, and Pam saw how so many records were lost. Since immunization records are required for day care, kindergarten, 8th grade, college, and the military, she knew it was important for that information to be housed in a

secure, centralized system that would continue despite disasters like hurricanes.

Inspired to find a solution, Pam talked to NCG Medical, the software company that develops the Perfect Care practice management software used by her practice. She stressed to NCG that she thought it was essential that they work out a way to exchange data with Florida SHOTS. "I told NCG it would be a big coup for them." (NCG is the first software company in the state of Florida that has the ability to upload straight to Florida SHOTS.)

The rest is history. Jean Johnson and Jennifer Senseman, two nurse managers from the office, worked on the project with the Florida SHOTS team and a project manager from NCG.

See **PEDIATRIC PRACTICE** on page 3

I-TRENDS

Study Makes Case for Data Upload

Children were considered eligible for the study if they were 19–35 months of age and had received at least one immunization at the provider’s office. For providers with 45 children aged 19–35 months on the date of the provider assessment, all children were included in the immunization assessment. For providers with 45 children, a random sample of 45 children was taken. Among the 30 providers, charts of 620 children 19–35 months of age were assessed. PDPH (Philadelphia Department of Public Health) staff entered immunization information for these children into an immunization software program (Clinical Assessment Software Application) and then assessed each child’s UTD immunization status according to the recommended vaccination schedule.

Provider types examined were 7 pediatric practices, 19 family practices, 3 hospital-based providers, and 1 shelter that administers immunizations. Methods of inputting data into the registry were log forms, paper billing records, electronic billing records, electronic medical records, and direct electronic transfer of data. Log forms were defined as forms manually generated at the clinic and sent to PDPH for manual entry into the registry. Paper copies of billing records also were sent to PDPH for manual entry into the registry. Electronic billing and medical records were either transferred into a secure web file

repository system or submitted via a disk to PDPH and uploaded into the registry. Direct electronic transfer of data meant that data automatically went from the provider’s computer system directly into the registry.

Providers submitting data to the registry via direct electronic entry or electronic medical records had significantly ($P<.05$) more patients (121/121, 100%) in the registry than providers sending electronic billing data (88/96, 92%), paper billing data (88/101, 87%), or paper log forms (270/302, 89%) to the registry.

When immunization coverage was compared by method of registry data entry, only direct entry of electronic data resulted in no difference between chart-based and registry-based coverage levels, with both showing immunization coverage of 87% among children 19–35 months of age.

Electronic medical records and systems designed to directly transfer data to the registry were the most effective methods of entering information in the registry. Electronic and paper billing records, along with paper log forms, were significantly associated with fewer children ever entered in the registry and lower UTD coverage estimates. Immunization providers should therefore consider adopting electronic medical records or systems that directly transfer data into immunization registries.

Did You Know?

More than 2 million shots and 250,000 kids have been uploaded into the registry since the data upload pilot began.

Tech Tips

Q: Our office uses electronic medical records. Is there an easy way to get immunization information out of those records and into the Florida SHOTS registry?

A: Florida SHOTS recently completed a successful data upload pilot program, and this capability is now being offered to other Florida SHOTS users. Visit www.flshots.com/forms.html, call 877-888-SHOT, or email flshots@doh.state.fl.us for detailed file specifications and electronic formats that are required to have your immunization data uploaded into the Florida SHOTS registry.

National Spotlight Shines on Florida's Immunization Rates

– April 4, 2006, Atlanta, Georgia

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization recently received two national awards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC awards were based on calendar year 2004 National Immunization Survey data.

With a rate of 88.5%, Florida ranked second nationally in the category “Top Three of the Highest Coverage Rates”; 2-Year Olds; 4-3-1-3-3; Calendar Year 2004. Florida also ranked second nationally in the “Most Improved Rate from 2001–2004” category, with an increase of 17.4%.

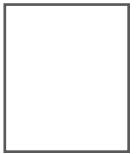
Congratulations to all BOI staffers and the immunization providers and champions throughout Florida whose dedication to the

elimination of vaccine-preventable diseases has contributed to this success!

USAF Upload Makes History

The Florida SHOTS staff gathered to celebrate BOI Chief Charles Alexander’s presentation of a plaque to commemorate the first upload of USAF immunization data (249,916 shot records). Susan Lincicome, Director of Florida SHOTS, accepted the award on behalf of the entire Florida SHOTS team.





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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 Connie Sims, Medical Assistant, Pediatric Associates of Lakeland, whose office enrolled June 2005.

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

Immunization information is easily accessible to us. It's easy to find shots when you have a new patient and you're not sure whether they have them all. When they are in the registry,

you don't have to wait for the health department to call back.

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

Our patients benefit from printed blue forms. They are neat and readily available.

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

Florida SHOTS helps you track patients' shots, and it's a better way to see who's up to date and who's not.

Top 15 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 15 by Daily Usage" chart as of March 31, 2006. Thank you for your support of the registry!

1. Alliance Pediatrics—Gainesville
2. Pediatric Professional Associates—Miami
3. Diagnostic Clinic—Clearwater
4. Carithers Pediatric Group—Jacksonville
5. North Florida Pediatrics Associates—Tallahassee
6. Westchester Pediatrics—Miami
7. Family Health Centers of SWF—Ft. Myers
8. David Weiss, MD, PA—Jacksonville
9. Altamonte Pediatrics—Altamonte Springs
10. UF Pediatric Primary Care—Gainesville
11. Pediatric Associates of Lakeland
12. ORH Pediatric Outpatient Practice—Orlando
13. Lynne Ellis, MD, PA—St. Petersburg
14. The Pediatric Center, Inc.—Wellington
15. Lawton Chiles Family Health—Bradenton

PEDIATRIC PRACTICE from page 1

Pediatric Practice Dives into Data Upload

The result: They enter shots into their Perfect Care software when the patient checks out, and at night, Perfect Care sweeps the accounts and transmits the information to Florida SHOTS. Now it's in the registry so people have access to it.

The new data exchange is a win-win for everyone. Before working with Florida SHOTS, it used to take 3 to 5 days to get a shot record to a patient. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to write out one blue form. Pediatric Associates of Orlando completes 100 blue forms a day this time of

year for sports physicals, schools, etc. Now they just have to pull the chart, verify what's in the system, hit print, and it's done.

"The people on staff at Florida SHOTS are phenomenal to work with. Pete Garner and his group have been so proactive. When they were contacted, they took the ball and ran with it. It's a wonderful thing for the state, NCG, the medical provider, and patients," says Pam. "This is definitely the beginning of everyone working together for the good of the child. This was a big step for us, Florida SHOTS, and Perfect Care."

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:V2:I2

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

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.

