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For more information about how you can participate, please call the Florida SHOTS enrollment desk at

(877) 888-SHOT

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719
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www.flshots.com



Bureau of Immunization



I-Trends

Data Upload Delivers Time Savings

Florida SHOTS' new data exchange capability can save hours of staff time. And now doctors' offices are discovering that not only is data upload doable, it's essential. Because of this, many are asking for their practice management (PM) or electronic medical record (EMR) software providers to work with them to create data upload capabilities.

Case in Point: Pediatric Associates

Pediatric Associates in South Florida participated in Florida SHOTS' data upload pilot. With 21 locations now participating in the registry, practice administrator Doreen Levin knew that data upload was a must for her offices.

"Though we've wanted to participate in Florida SHOTS, it wasn't possible to have all of our locations inputting immunization data into two separate [electronic] systems. Once we were able to develop an interface [for data upload], it made sense to be part of the state database. It's a big thing to be able to print records instead of writing the 680 blue forms and to get records from other practices and the health department. Pediatric Associates services a large Medicaid population, so it's easy now to get those patients' information from the health department."

During the data upload pilot phase, Doreen wrote a program using the report-generating capabilities of their current Misys system that would batch their historic shot data for output to Florida SHOTS. Pediatric Associates started with a load of 12 years of records from the system (approximately 2 million records). They have continued with a monthly upload. Because new shots aren't entered daily, they print the 680 form and write in the shots that are given that day so that each patient immediately has an updated shot record.

Within two months, Pediatric Associates will have a new practice management system that will upload more often than the current system. "We just bought a new system, and creating a Florida SHOTS data upload capability was a requirement

for any new system we bought. We selected 'Xpert Practice Manager' by TriMed Technologies, and they are writing the interface for us now. Pete Garner and the Florida SHOTS team have been really good about working with us on this."

As for what advice Doreen would give other doctors' offices about asking their practice management software company to create data upload capabilities, she says, "It can't hurt to ask. People don't realize it's doable. If your vendor is willing to write it, it's not a difficult interface. The information Florida SHOTS is asking for is not difficult. People get hung up on the fact that data won't immediately be in the Florida SHOTS system if they are using data upload. However, daily, weekly, or monthly upload is a relatively easy thing to do. And it's well worth the time to print out the blue card and write in any new shots that have been given since the last upload."

Most practices and providers who use PM or EMR software or services now have the capability to populate Florida SHOTS without direct data entry.

How Data Upload Works

The Florida SHOTS data upload process allows enrolled Florida SHOTS practitioners to securely transmit immunization event data to the Department of Health for addition to the Florida SHOTS registry (in batch mode). This means that most practices and providers who use PM or EMR software or services now have the capability to populate Florida SHOTS, particularly with historical immunization data, without direct data entry. Participating offices can still provide updates and enter current immunizations electronically as well.

Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to the 208 practices that enrolled during the months of May, June, and July 2006. Recent enrollee Jennifer Nussbaumer, RN, at Pace Pediatrics in Pace, says this about Florida SHOTS:

“We enrolled in Florida SHOTS because we wanted to be able to print the 680 blue forms. We also knew that we could access the shots given at the public health department, but we didn’t realize at the time that we could access those given by other private provider offices too. It was easy to enroll and complete the Web-based training, and the system has been pretty self-explanatory.

I just think Florida SHOTS is awesome. It provides quick access to shot information. You don’t have to wait for another doctor’s office to fax information over. Initially, the input takes a little while, but once it’s in there, all you have to do is print out a blue form.

We have every patient in our practice in the system. I started at the As and my co-worker started at the Zs and we met in the middle just in time for school. So when school rolled around we were able to say, ‘Need three copies [of the 680 blue form]? No problem.’ Print. We’re even able to print records for new patients who didn’t receive the shots in our office.”

Top 15 Spotlight

We’d like to commend the following practices for hitting our “Top 15 by Daily Usage” chart as of August 18, 2006. Thank you for your support of the registry!

1. Pediatric Professional Associates—Miami
2. Alliance Pediatrics—Gainesville
3. Pace Pediatrics
4. Comprehensive Childcare—Sarasota
5. Carithers Pediatrics Group—Jacksonville
6. Altamonte Pediatrics—Altamonte Springs
7. Diagnostic Clinic—Clearwater
8. Myrtle Avenue Pediatrics—Clearwater
9. Pediatric Associates of Jacksonville
10. Family Health Centers of SWF—Ft. Myers
11. North Florida Pediatrics Associates—Tallahassee
12. Mima Pediatrics—Idialantic
13. Tallahassee Pediatrics
14. The Pediatric Center, Inc.—Wellington
15. Pediatric Centers of Lee County—Lehigh Acres

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Data Upload Delivers Time Savings

Getting Started

In order to participate in data upload, practices must be enrolled in Florida SHOTS and must be able to produce data files in either fixed length or delimited format according to the file specifications included in the “Private Provider Data Upload Program Description and File Specifications” document. Also, they must acquire and be able to execute transfers using a Florida Department of Health secure FTP account by filling out the “DOH Secure FTP User Access Request.” Both documents are available in the Data Exchange page of the Resources section at www.flshots.com. Practices can either complete this process for themselves; approach their PM or EMR provider to create the batch process capability within their software; or request that Florida SHOTS’

staff contact their software provider directly to request data upload. Contact Florida SHOTS at 877-888-SHOT(7468) to get started.

As with any other upgrade or revision to a practice’s software, it is up to the PM or EMR company to determine whether they are able and willing to create the batch functionality needed for individual practices to participate in data upload. However, the fields required for data upload are already captured in most PM or EMR software. Required fields are: patient last name, patient first name, date of birth, gender, street address, city, state, zip code, patient identifier/chart number, CVX or CPT code for vaccination, vaccination short description, and the date the vaccination was given.

Did You Know?

Not only have we overhauled the look of the newsletter, we’ve completely revamped the Florida SHOTS Web site! The streamlined, reorganized site makes it easier to get to the information you’re looking for. Visit www.flshots.com to find the latest news, easy access to registry login, information about data upload, refresher training, or a host of resources related to immunizations and Florida SHOTS.

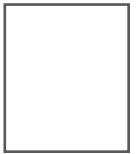
Tech Tips

Q: I’ve heard that the Web-based training (WBT) is undergoing some major revisions. In addition to refresher training being available, how is the basic training program changed in this new version of the WBT?

A: To maximize understanding of the registry’s many capabilities, there will be three types of training available in each module:

1. A set of instructional slides that explain the purpose of a particular function
2. A “see it” demonstration that shows step by step how to use the function
3. A “try it” feature to practice performing the task

Look for the updated WBT mid-October 2006.



The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

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 Lynell Godwin, the office manager at Lisbeth Vernali, MD, in Pensacola, with contributions from Dr. Vernali, Lori Johnson, and Elizabeth Godwin.

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

Being able to type in the shots, know what they've already had, and know what they're going to need. I input the shots in the history screen so I can put several in at a time. You can even have a reminder of what the children need.

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

Convenience. Having the 680 blue form printed out so it's legible. Often, you can barely read it from other doctors' offices. Legibility is a big deal.

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

Enroll for the convenience of having the shot information right at your fingertips, because the forms are legible, and you'll have fewer mistakes. It's really a good program. I put the Florida SHOTS stickers on every chart to show me which ones I've done.



From left to right: Lori Johnson, Dr. Lisbeth Vernali, and Lynell Goodwin

In the beginning, using the registry is a little more difficult. But once a patient's entered, the difference is unreal to me. It's a great office tool. I don't know why any pediatrician's office would be without it. It provides good continuity of care. One of our children is permanently exempt, and it does all the paperwork for you.

Dr. Vernali adds that having it online where we have access to it takes all the guesswork out of it. It tells us when they need a shot next, when shots are complete, and it really helps on the late starter who is behind on the immunization schedule.

How have you implemented Florida SHOTS into your daily workflow?

We chose to add records as patients come in. If we have extra time or help, we put other records in too. As each child comes in, we put them on the site, and it updates their shots so easily. Additionally, a lot of people get their shots from the health department, and we can print the patient's shot record for them when they come in for their required physical.

Upload Update

More than 2.7 million shot records have been uploaded into the registry since February 2006!

Call 877-888-SHOT or visit the Data Exchange page on the Web in the Resources section of www.flshots.com to learn more about private provider data upload, a process that extracts shot records from current electronic files and imports them into Florida SHOTS.

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:V2:14

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

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 www.flshots.com.

E-Tracker

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