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How Do I Enroll in Florida SHOTS?

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

(877) 888-SHOT

Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719
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www.flshots.com



Bureau of Immunization



I-Trends

National Registry Support Grows; EMR Links Promoted

The Florida Pediatric Society and the Florida Medical Association have publicly endorsed participation in Florida SHOTS, Florida's immunization registry. Nationwide, organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) stand solidly behind the necessity of immunization registries while continuing to look for ways to improve their functionality and decrease administrative burdens.

For example, a recent article in the *AAP News* discusses the AAP's support of immunization registries and recommends the adoption of electronic medical records (EMRs) as a way to ease the administrative requirements of maintaining immunization records. (For full text see "AAP supports immunization registries but more study needed on information systems' impact on practices," *AAP News*, Vol. 27, No. 9, September 2006.)

AAP correspondent Deborah Johnson writes, "While revisions to the AAP policy statement on registries (or Immunization Information Systems [IISs] as they now are called) were in the works a year in advance of Katrina, the catastrophe highlights the need to examine the role of the IIS in disaster preparedness."

Post-Katrina, Florida SHOTS' help desk staff had access to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama state immunization registries. Florida SHOTS' staff received and responded to thousands of inquiries from health departments, private providers, and schools and found many immunization records for children displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Registry Benefits

According to Johnson, "Immunization Information Systems are beneficial in that pediatricians can get information easily about existing or new patients, print out paper records for schools and generate notices to patients when they are due for vaccinations. The policy statement reiterates the Academy's continued support of the development and implementation of registries because of these benefits."

Another AAP recommendation calls for integration of IIS with EMR systems.

EMRs Effective to Overcome Barriers

Immunization registry proponents see the adoption of EMRs as an essential way to overcome the barriers of inputting information into registries. Johnson writes, "Once physicians are entering patient information into a computer instead of a chart, the data easily can be shipped electronically to the state or county immunization registry. Dr. Hinman [of the Task Force for Child Survival and Development in Decatur, Georgia] said that ideally, registries should be in conversation with EMR vendors to coordinate that flow."

See **I-TRENDS** page 2



Florida Shots
CERTIFIED PROVIDER

These software companies have created data exchange capabilities between Florida SHOTS and their medical software. We appreciate their partnership in our efforts to increase Florida's childhood immunization levels.

- **NCG Medical**
(Perfect Care)
- **AutoMedicWorks**
- **VipaHealth Solutions**
(SmartEMR)
- **TriMed Technologies**
(Expert Practice Manager)*
- **JMJ Technologies***
- **Automated Medical Systems**
- **Office Practicum***
- **Bond Technologies***

*in development

Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to the 220 practices that enrolled during the months of August, September, and October 2006. This month we're featuring a twist on our "new user" article by highlighting a long-term member of Florida SHOTS who is a new data upload participant. Trish Jack, an LPN who works with the doctors at Comprehensive Childcare Associates in Sarasota, recently spoke to us about their experience with data upload. Here's what Trish had to say about it.

"In a year's time, we went from paper charts to a computer system, moved into a new building, added two doctors to the practice, and expanded our patient load quite a bit. Because of the greatly increased workload, it was too much work to handwrite blue forms. Since AutoMedicWorks created the data upload capability for us, boy what a breeze, because what we enter in the computer downloads for Florida SHOTS. This has really decreased our man-hours, and it produces



Dr. Marlene Murphy, Dr. Briggs Carroll, Dr. Scott Featherman, and Dr. Janet Minella of Comprehensive Childcare Associates

much more accurate immunization records. It's so much easier just to add the shots patients had today and print the blue form. It has increased our efficiency and our ability to serve our patients.

I've been thrilled since we've had Florida SHOTS. We like it a lot. I recommend that doctors enroll in the registry. If doctors want to meet their patients' needs and do it more efficiently, Florida SHOTS is the way to go."

Top 10 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 10 by Daily Usage" chart as of October 20, 2006. Thank you for your support of the registry!

Traditional Partners:

1. Pediatric Professional Associates—Miami
2. Alliance Pediatrics—Gainesville
3. MIMA Pediatrics—Indialantic
4. Carithers Pediatrics Group—Jacksonville
5. Myrtle Avenue Pediatrics—Clearwater

Upload Partners:

1. Pediatric Associates PA—Lauderdale Lakes
2. Florida Health Care Plans—Holly Hill
3. Milla Pediatrics—Gainesville
4. Eglin Air Force Base Immunizations Clinic
5. Pediatric Associates of Orlando

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National Registry Support Grows; EMR Links Promoted

Diane McLeod, Technology Field Representative for Florida SHOTS, is holding those conversations with EMR and practice management (PM) software providers throughout Florida. Florida SHOTS calls its data exchange program "data upload." In this process, a simple program is written to extract immunization data from an office's existing EMR or PM software into a batch file. The file is then uploaded into the Florida SHOTS registry. Data upload allows offices to import a vast amount of historical data automatically. Offices can continue to manually enter data as patients are seen, because a de-duplication process is run before each upload to ensure shots are only recorded once in the registry.

"We are seeing support for data upload start to take off across the state. We already have worked with several software vendors who have created the functionality in their software packages," says Susan Lincicome, Director, Florida SHOTS. (See box, pg. 1.) "Florida SHOTS welcomes all EMR and PM software vendors doing business in Florida to partner with us in making data upload a reality for our registry users."

If you would like more information about the Florida SHOTS registry or about data upload, call the help desk at 877-888-SHOT, or visit www.flshots.com.

Upload Update

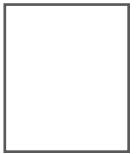
More than 3 million shot records have been uploaded into the registry since February 2006!

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 the Florida SHOTS registry.

Tech Tips

Q: What has changed on the new 680, and is there a deadline to use up my existing supplies of the form?

A: In the new version of DH form 680, Tdap was added to the Td vaccine column to provide accurate notation. The Florida statute citation in the header section also was revised from 232.02 to 1003.22 to reflect the statute reorganization. The same preprinted changes have been made for printing the electronic DH 680 and are available in Release 9.26.1 (released on October 5, 2006). Both HCMS and Florida SHOTS have been updated with this release to print Td/Tdap on the line for documenting dosage dates. The existing version of DH Form 680 may be used until stock is depleted.



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

You Said It



Dr. Laura Meyer, Connissa Pease, and Dr. Deborah French of Partners in Pediatrics

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 Denise Amper, RN, office manager at Partners in Pediatrics, Clearwater.

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

I like being able to go online when children come from other doctors' offices, to find their vaccine records, and print the blue form.

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

Their vaccine record is available for any health-care provider to access it.

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

I highly recommend that they enroll. I can't say enough good things about the registry. I think it's great, especially in natural disaster situations.

How have you implemented Florida SHOTS into your daily workflow?

When we first started, we entered the new babies at two months, and when they came in for well visits, their charts were kept out and updated daily. Now we're up to the four-year-olds. We're also catching up with teenagers who are coming in for their tetanus booster. Any new clients who come into the practice are put into the registry right away (if they're not already in there).

Did You Know?



Florida SHOTS has been developing data upload capabilities with software providers throughout Florida. Jose Sanchez of VipaHealth (pictured above) is the recent winner of a drawing that was part of our direct-mail campaign to raise awareness of Florida SHOTS' Advanced Tracking Technology™.

Jose says of the registry: "Developing an integration platform between our SmartEMR solution (EMR) and Florida SHOTS has been a beneficial experience to our company (VipaHealth Solutions). Through our partnership with Florida SHOTS we will be able to offer our clients an easy, manageable, and transparent way of transmitting their patient's immunizations records." Congratulations, Jose, and thank you for your support of 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:I5

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

We Need Your Input!

In order to make Florida SHOTS the best tool it can be, we have asked a private research company to conduct a survey of all immunization providers in the state of Florida. Whether you currently use the registry or not, we want your input about your immunization practices and your perceptions of Florida SHOTS' features and benefits. Your feedback will be used to refine the system to best meet provider needs as we work together to conquer vaccine-preventable disease in children.



All responses will be entered in a drawing to win a **\$250 American Express gift certificate (one entry per office)** awarded by the research firm. The survey is designed to take about 10 minutes of your time, and you may designate anyone in the office who is knowledgeable about your immunization practices to respond. To participate go to www.brunetgarcia.com/survey, password: **tracker5**.

If you cannot access the survey online, call **Dianna Gosendi** at **904-346-1977** to request a faxed copy of the survey.

The deadline to enter is **January 31, 2007**.

