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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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Bureau of
Immunization



I-Trends

What Are Your Practice's Immunization Levels?

Do you know? Would you like to? No one working in health care would debate the importance of ensuring that children receive the immunizations they need at the times that they need them. But how do you know how well that is happening in your office? Studies have shown that practices commonly overestimate their immunization levels, which is not surprising given how time consuming it is to complete manual chart checks. Florida SHOTS now offers you a quick and easy immunization level assessment tool to find those answers.

"Increasing the number of public and private health care practitioners who assess immunization levels is a Healthy People 2010 goal, and Florida SHOTS provides the tools to automate the process," say Susan Lincicome, Director, Florida SHOTS. "The *Standards for Pediatric and Adolescent Immunization Practices* recommend the use of immunization level assessment as a tool to help increase immunization levels and prevent vaccine-preventable diseases."

Assessment Benefits

Here are a few of the benefits of Florida SHOTS automated immunization level assessment:

- Allows providers to assess immunization levels in various age groups
- Provides reports on a variety of immunization measures such as 4 DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR or more stringent measures such as 4 DTaP, 3 IPV, 1 MMR, 3 Hep B, 3 Hib, 1 Varicella, or 3 Prevnar
- Enables practitioners to gauge the quality of immunization services within their clinics and ensures that children are being appropriately immunized

Reports also show how many children would have been complete with only one additional visit and provide a list of children missing immunizations for follow-up purposes.

Easy-to-Use Tool

Florida SHOTS has always had the ability to export immunization data for import into CASA programs that would then run the assessment; however, the new capabilities allow offices to

skip the export/import steps and run the reports straight from Florida SHOTS.

Suzannah Puigdomenech, Duval County Health Department, and Joanne Westaway, Leon County Health Department, use the new reports as part of their visits to offices that participate in the Vaccines for Children program. During a standard visit, they will pull 50 charts and spend approximately four hours loading the immunization data from the charts into CASA. From there, they have to run a report

See I-TRENDS page 2



Florida Shots
CERTIFIED PROVIDER

These software companies have created data exchange capabilities between Florida SHOTS and their EMR, practice management, or billing software. We appreciate their partnership!

- Automated Medical Systems
- AutoMedicWorks
- Bond Technologies
- Electronic Healthcare Systems
- JMJ Technologies
- MediTab
- NCG Medical (*Perfect Care*)
- Office Practicum
- TriMed Technologies (*Expert Practice Manager*)
- VipaHealth Solutions (*SmartEMR*)
- Amazing Charts*
- Cryamed*
- e-MD*
- Health Tec Software*
- Practice Partner—McKesson*
- Source Plus*
- SSIMED Systems*
- SynaMed*
- Visionary*

* in development

What Are Your Practice's Immunization Levels?

to assess immunization levels. This time is greatly reduced when offices are on Florida SHOTS. "If they're using Florida SHOTS, we save a lot of time," says Suzannah. "Florida SHOTS assists us in evaluating and improving immunization levels. If offices are not on Florida SHOTS, I get them information about enrolling and using the system."

"It's been a great time saver both for me and the office," adds Joanne. "We love it. It's so much easier for us having those reports on the registry. We can be in and out of a provider's office quickly and see where the problems

are (e.g., missing the fourth DTaP). Because of the time savings, we can spend time on things that are more helpful to the office. It helps them, and it's a lot faster and a lot more accurate. These reports are so easy to do now. There's no exporting or importing. Simply fill in a date and push a button to generate the reports. It's great. We love Florida SHOTS."

For additional information about how to use the immunization level assessment tools, view the Florida SHOTS user guide or the Web-based training online, or call 877-888-SHOT.

Welcome Aboard!

We here at Florida SHOTS would like to wish a warm welcome to all of the new practices that enrolled during the months of January and February 2007. This "new user" feature has come to represent those who are new enrollees as well as those who have just begun participating in data upload. This issue we highlight another long-term member of Florida SHOTS who is a new data upload participant. Janet O'Dell, RN Clinical Educator, at North Pinellas Children's Medical Center in New Port Richey, recently spoke to us about her experience with data upload. (Data upload is a process that exports immunization information from the existing electronic medical, billing, or practice management records of an office and transfers them for import into the Florida SHOTS registry.) Here's what Janet had to say about her experience with Florida SHOTS and data upload.

"Florida SHOTS speeds things up a lot. Florida has a lot of people moving in and out of the state. We want to ensure that we don't have duplication of shots and parents don't have to contact their former pediatrician's office. It's easier for us to find new patients on Florida SHOTS than having to get a release signed to request shot records from other offices. That's a lengthy process, and it's time consuming for the staff to fax and follow up on those requests.

Every child should be immunized! Family education is important even with the shots. We can print a shot record for the

parents too, because as time has gone on, more immunizations have been added, and it's even trickier for parents to keep up with them. For school registration, it's really important to have shots up to date. Also, the D.H. Form 680 prints out very nicely on Florida SHOTS.

We enrolled in Florida SHOTS about two years ago, but with 16 doctors covering three counties, the backlog of historical shots was hard to get in. We got involved in data upload after seeing a *SHOTS Tracker* newsletter article about an Orlando practice that had trouble getting historical shots in the system, so they required their new practice management software to create a data upload capability with Florida SHOTS. When I saw that, I called the Florida SHOTS team and they got the ball rolling with our electronic medical records vendor, Electronic Healthcare Systems (EHS). Pete Garner at Florida SHOTS and EHS coordinated everything, and now our shots data is uploaded daily into the registry.

We are very pleased with Florida SHOTS and Electronic Healthcare Systems and what we're seeing so far. The trend will be to migrate to EMR for many offices. It's a very involved task, but once you go that way, you'd never turn back. It makes managing patients easier and more efficient.

As for Florida SHOTS, it provides a continuity of care to ensure the best care for patients, and it saves time communicating with other offices."

Upload Update

More than 4.25 million shot records have been uploaded into the registry as of March 2, 2007!

This includes our first upload from Aetna HMO, which provided 171,000 shots statewide for 2006. We are continuing to work with Aetna to get in shots for prior years of service.

Call 877-888-SHOT or visit the Data Exchange page in the Resources section of www.flshots.com to learn more about private provider data upload, a process that exports immunization information from current electronic files and transfers them for import into the Florida SHOTS registry.

Did You Know?

Great new Florida SHOTS features are on the horizon. Automated password reset is coming this spring (estimated April launch date). With the new reset function, you will be able to reset your own password by answering some simple security questions.



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 think about the registry. This feature interview was conducted with Sandra Vega, Medical Office Manager, and Anyana Simpson, Medical Assistant, Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida. There are 15 locations and an executive office within the group that access the registry, and of those, eight primarily pediatric offices enter information into Florida SHOTS.

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

It makes our lives so much simpler. It's so much easier when we don't have to go through the charts to see the last time the child had shots. We can check the registry and verify what the parents have. Florida SHOTS also warns you when shots would be given early or when a patient is overdue.

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

When we give shots, we enter the information in the registry. Then we print a copy for the

parents so they have the shot record as well as the dates that the next shots are due. This gives them a printed reminder, which really helps most of them remember when to come back.

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

Florida SHOTS is great. It keeps you from having to wonder what shots the patients have had. It tells you what they have had and when to come back. It calculates the exact date a shot should be given and flags those that would be given too early, so there's no guesswork. I use that to show a mom why we need to wait on certain shots, because it's self-explanatory. Also, when new children come to the practice, it's so much easier than having to call another busy office to get the records. It's wonderful. It's also a good training tool for new employees who don't have much experience with new immunizations, because as you input the information, you learn. It's just a great tool—really effective—and it does its job.

Tech Tips

Q: We are interested in the reminder/recall function, but we don't know how to use it. Help!

A: We often hear from the field that people aren't aware of Florida SHOTS' reminder/recall capability, or they're not sure

how to use it. We've got the solution—a training module within our Web-based training. You can access this within the Florida SHOTS application. Look for it under "customer support," left toolbar, last tab, last item within that tab (Web-based training). Watch a demonstration or try it out for yourself.

Top 10 Spotlight

We'd like to commend the following practices for hitting our "Top 10 by Daily Usage" chart as of March 12, 2007. Thank you for your support of the registry!

Traditional Partners:

1. Island Pediatrics:
Orange Park
2. Pediatric Professional Associates: Miami
3. Alliance Pediatrics:
Gainesville
4. Altamonte Pediatrics:
Altamonte Springs
5. Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida: Ft. Myers

Upload Partners:

1. Pediatric Associates PA:
Lauderdale Lakes
2. Florida Health Care Plans:
Holly Hill
3. Children's Medical Center III:
Hollywood
4. Milla Pediatrics: Gainesville
5. Eglin Air Force Base
Immunizations Clinic

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:V3:12

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

From November through January, we asked a private research company to conduct a statewide survey of immunization providers—whether they currently use the registry or not—to gather input about immunization practices and perceptions of Florida SHOTS' features and benefits. We heard from 181 providers from across the state, and we're thrilled with the results. (Look for an overview of those results in the next newsletter.)



All responses were then entered in a drawing to win a \$250 American Express gift certificate awarded by the research firm. Our winner was Anna Allen, ARNP, of Wildwood Medical Center. When notified, she had this to say about Florida SHOTS: "We're in a small town in a rural area. Florida SHOTS has expedited my practice so much. It's so nice not to have to depend on parents to know the shots their children have had, and it helps us get the kids ready for school." Thanks, Anna, and thank you all for taking the time to participate in the survey!

