

be increasing due to the growing complexity of the recommended immunization schedule. As families move in and out of public and private health care systems, parents and providers can use IIS as a powerful tool to ensure that children receive timely immunizations and proper treatment.

Every state has an immunization information system. The majority of public health care providers and many private providers are already benefiting from their use. A majority of the systems, which were created with the help of the CDC, began collecting data on children nearly ten years ago and now contain adolescent and adult information as well. The CDC and its partners, like Every Child by Two, are working to inform all providers about these in-dispensable tools. These systems are a first step in moving towards electronic health records (EHRs), a majority priority of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information about IIS

- “Health Care Providers Speak Out on Immunization Registries” is a CD-ROM that describes the benefits of using immunization registries. It includes messages from Mrs. Carter and the former chief of the Immunization Registry Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and testimonials from clinic staff. For a free copy, please contact Every Child By Two – jennifer@ecbt.org or 202-783-7034. The video will soon be available at www.ecbt.org
- For more information about IIS across the country and for contact information for each IIS, visit the Provider Section of the CDC’s Immunization Registry Branch website at www.cdc.gov/nip/registry/home_providers.htm

Don’t wait...call your state or local IIS staff today!

HAVE MORE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT REALLY MATTERS... YOUR PATIENTS

HOW PNPs CAN GET THE MOST OUT OF USING IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS



What are Immunization Information Systems (IIS)?

Immunization information systems (also known as immunization registries) are confidential, computerized information systems that collect and contain vaccination data about all children and provide immediate access to a child's current immunization status.

Prior to the implementation of immunization information systems, providers did not have a consistent method for accurately assessing the immunization status of their patients. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) providers often overestimate the proportion of their patients that is fully immunized and parents are often unaware of their children's immunization status or forget to bring their child's immunization records to their appointments. Missed opportunities for immunization are common and may



“We believe that immunization registries are the best mechanism to maintain the high level of immunizations rates that we are currently enjoying while at the same time locating that last 20% of children who continuously fall through the cracks of our health care system.”

Rosalynn Carter
Co-Founder, Every Child By Two and
Former First Lady of the United States



Immunization Information Systems: Why do you need them?

- There are 4 million births each year (11,000/day)
- By age two, children will need up to twenty vaccines
- New vaccines are continuously added to the recommended immunization schedule
- 21% of children are over-immunized
- 2.1 million children are under-immunized and are at risk for disease
- Few providers send reminder/recall postcards, a proven strategy, to ensure their patients receive timely immunizations
- Parents and providers overestimate immunization rates
- 22% of American children see two immunization providers in their first 2 years of life, making it difficult to track records

What Benefits Can I Expect to Receive from Using Immunization Information Systems?

Immunization information systems can offer many benefits to Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs). As a PNP, you are often in charge of administering children's immunizations for your office practice. This includes overseeing the burdensome paperwork and other administrative duties resulting from the complexity of the recommended childhood immunization schedule. Using IIS will help you to be more efficient by streamlining the immunization administration process, saving you time and your practice money.



Immunization Information Systems can:

Consolidate Your Patients' Immunization Records – IIS combine immunization information from different sources (e.g., previous providers) into a single record and provide official immunization records for school, day care and camp entry requirements with the click of a button.

Automatically Calculate Immunizations Needed – IIS can instantly calculate which vaccines need to be given to your patient in accordance with the latest ACIP vaccine recommendations and intervals.

Save Time Spent Calling Other Providers and Receiving Calls – IIS help you to avoid calling other providers in order to obtain your patients' immunization histories. Lists can also be generated to expedite school enrollment and eliminate individual calls from school personnel.

Easily Send out Reminders and Recalls to Your Patients – IIS can automatically generate reminder and recall postcards and/or mailing labels to send out to parents to remind them when their child's immunizations are due or have been missed. Many can also generate automated phone calls.

Immunization Information Systems also:

- Track administered vaccines to ensure proper reimbursement
- Increase immunization data quality and completeness
- Generate timely immunization reports (e.g. HEDIS, CASA and other quality improvement initiatives)
- Automate vaccine inventory, expediting ordering procedures
- Allow expeditious tracking of vaccines in case of vaccine shortages and during manufacturer recalls
- Automatically flag high-risk patients for timely annual influenza vaccination
- Often have the capacity to integrate with other systems (e.g., newborn and lead screening, WIC, office billing systems and electronic medical records)

About ECBT

Every Child By Two (ECBT) was founded by former First Lady of the United States Rosalynn Carter and Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers. Carter and Bumpers have been working to insure timely infant immunizations since their husbands were governors in the early 1970's and have been credited with the passage of laws mandating school-age vaccination requirements during the Carter Administration. In 1991, Carter and Bumpers founded ECBT in response to the measles epidemic that killed nearly 150 people, many of them children. ECBT's mission is to raise awareness of the critical need for timely immunizations and foster a systematic way to immunize all of America's

children by age two. To forward its agenda, ECBT enlists the support of elected officials and their spouses, concerned community leaders and representatives of many national organizations.

ECBT works in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct educational programs for healthcare providers and immunization advocates. We encourage policymakers to support policies that improve the health and well-being of children. We also support efforts to increase state and federal funding for immunization activities. The cofounders of ECBT continue to travel throughout the nation to highlight the need for continued vigilance to ensure that the 11,000 babies born every day receive life-saving vaccines on time. We have assisted in the development of immunization coalitions throughout the country and encourage the involvement of highly visible immunization advocates within the states. We work to achieve universal health insurance coverage for all recommended childhood vaccines and expanded Vaccines For Children (VFC) coverage for underinsured children.

One of ECBT's main priorities is to ensure that computerized immunization information systems (also known as immunization registries) are fully developed in every state and utilized by all providers. We believe that immunization information systems are essential to ensure that children do not continue to fall through the cracks in the health care system and that, when fully utilized, will be the key to institutionalizing immunization delivery nationwide.