

immunization are common and may 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 indispensable 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 CDC, and testimonials from clinic staff. For a free copy, please contact Every Child By Two at [info@ecbt.org](mailto:info@ecbt.org) or 202-783-7034. The video can also be viewed on the ECBT website at [www.ecbt.org/registries/marketingcdrom.cfm](http://www.ecbt.org/registries/marketingcdrom.cfm)
- For more information about IIS across the country and for contact information for each IIS, visit the Provider Section of the CDC’s Immunization Information Systems website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/providers.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/providers.htm) or at The American Immunization Registry Association [www.immregistries.com](http://www.immregistries.com)

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

## HOW IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS CAN HELP STREAMLINE VACCINATION DELIVERY FOR YOUR OFFICE

USING IIS TO SAVE YOUR OFFICE PRACTICE TIME AND MONEY



## 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. These systems were created using public dollars and are therefore free of charge for all providers.

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 fully immunized patients and parents often don't know the immunization status of their children or forget to bring their children's immunization records to their appointments. Missed opportunities for



*“We believe that immunization registries are the best mechanism to maintain the high level of immunization 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/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 and family practices. As an office manager, you are in charge of making certain that your practice is run efficiently and that patients receive timely care. With the ever growing complexity of the recommended immunization schedule it has become increasingly difficult to determine which vaccines are required for patients at each visit. Participating in your state's IIS will facilitate disease prevention by providing accurate and timely immunization records for each patient. In addition, using an IIS will help your practice be more efficient by streamlining the immunization administration process, saving the staff time and the practice money.



Immunization Information Systems can:

**Track Administered Vaccines to Ensure Proper Reimbursement** – Research shows that practices often do not request sufficient reimbursement for all the vaccines that they administer to their patients because they don't have an easy way of keeping track of them. IIS can help you keep track of all administered vaccines and expedite reimbursement procedures, thereby assuring you receive accurate reimbursement from health plans and state agencies.

**Reduce Over-Vaccination of New Patients**– Parents often lose or forget to bring in their children's immunization records, making it difficult for office staff to determine which vaccines the children have already received. Without official documentation, physicians are required to vaccinate the child again to assure they are protected against disease. Using an IIS will allow you to access the immunization information from your patient's previous providers and will combine this information into a single record.

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

**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 IIS can also generate automated phone calls.

**Save Time Spent Calling Other Providers and Receiving Calls**– IIS decrease time spent by office staff seeking immunization histories from previous providers. Lists can also be generated to expedite school enrollment and eliminate individual calls from school personnel.

## Immunization Information Systems also:

- Often have the capacity to integrate with other systems (e.g., newborn and lead screening, WIC, office billing systems and electronic medical records)
- 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 vaccine manufacturer recalls
- Automatically flag high-risk patients for timely annual influenza vaccination

## 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 ensure 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 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 co-founders 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, which exist in every state, are 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. When fully utilized, registries will be the key to institutionalizing immunization delivery nationwide.