

# The Benefits of Participating in Your State or Local Immunization Information System (IIS)

**Immunization Information Systems** — also known as immunization registries — are confidential, community-wide computerized databases that record vaccines administered by participating healthcare professionals.

## IIS CAPTURE THE VACCINATION STATUS OF THE POPULATION

The Immunization Information Systems Annual Report (IISAR) is a yearly assessment conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Each IIS is asked to provide information, such as the number of children, adolescents and adults with vaccinations recorded in the IIS; public and private provider site participation levels; fulfillment of IIS functional standards; and other IIS-related programmatic functions. For the most up-to-date IISAR data, visit the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/annual-report-iisar](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/annual-report-iisar).

## BENEFITS OF IIS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Simplifies immunization record-keeping, provides quicker access to immunization records, and helps keep track of a patient's immunization status.
- Enables providers to easily find immunizations for patients new to your practice.
- Provides patients with official copies of immunization records.
- Tracks administered vaccines to ensure proper reimbursement.
- Automatically calculates immunizations needed (i.e. clinical decision support).
- Easily sends out reminders and recalls to your patients.
- Reduces or eliminates chart pulls needed for coverage assessment and HEDIS reviews.
- Facilitate routine doses administered reports for vaccine accountability.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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**Q: Does my state have an IIS? How can I contact my state IIS for more information?**

A: Most states, and some large cities and U.S. territories, have their own IIS. Visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contacts-locate-records.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contacts-locate-records.html) to contact your state or local IIS for more information, and to learn how to participate.

**Q: What information is in an IIS?**

A: The information in an IIS varies by state, but most contain the patient's full name, birth date, gender, state and/or country of origin, as well as the patient's mother's name, and the types and dates of vaccines administered.

**Q: Do IIS have vaccination records for people of all ages?**

A: Yes, most states, plus Washington, DC, have "lifetime" IIS. This means that they contain vaccination records for children, adolescents, and adults.

**Q: What will participation in an IIS cost a provider practice?**

A: There is no charge for providers to use an IIS. However, incorporating the use of an IIS into your practice's daily workflow will take an initial investment of time and effort.

**Q: Can the IIS exchange data with Electronic Health Records (EHRs)?**

A: IIS have capacity to electronically exchange data with clinical systems like EHRs. The specifics of the data exchange depend on the technical capacity of both the EHR and the IIS. Many state and local IIS use the industry standard Health Level 7 (HL7) protocol to synchronize patient's immunization information. To learn more about EHR interoperability with IIS, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/meaningful-use/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/meaningful-use/index.html).

**Q: Is reporting to an IIS subject to the HIPAA Privacy Rule?**

A: No. The reporting of immunizations to an IIS is exempt from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule as this is considered a public health activity.

**Source:** Immunization Information Systems (CDC), [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/index.html)