

# Colorado Immunization Registry

## Overview

January 2004, Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) began submitting immunization data to the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS). The CIIS is a computerized information system that stores vaccination histories. The system is operated by the University of Colorado Health Science Center (UCHSC) for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) under the Colorado Immunization Act. States and communities throughout the country have developed confidential immunization information systems with assistance from federal, state, and local partners. Immunization information systems are endorsed by professional organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the National Medical Association.

## Immunization Database

The database is web enabled and accessed using Internet Explorer. Participating immunization providers can view and enter immunizations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Immunizations are stored for each child in a single record even if the CIIS receives immunization data from more than one provider.

## Participation is Voluntary

Participation in the CIIS is voluntary for both providers and parents. Parents have the right to have their child's immunization data excluded. RMHP members have been informed of our participation in the CIIS through our member newsletter and notices have been placed in our new member packets. Parents have been instructed to contact the CIIS directly if they wish to have their child's immunization data excluded from this immunization registry.

## No Access or Usage Fees

The CIIS does not charge a fee for access or use of immunization data. For providers that wish to participate in the CIIS, training is provided for office staff at no cost to the provider. The CIIS staff works with providers to utilize the equipment they already have.

## CIIS Access and Release of Information

The Colorado Immunization Act allows the CIIS to obtain immunization information from the following sources:

- Treating physician or licensed health care practitioner
- School or day care center where the child is enrolled
- Parent of an infant
- Child or student
- Managed care organization or health insurer in which an infant, child, or student is enrolled
- Hospitals
- Persons or entities contracted with the state to implement or operate the infant immunization program

The CIIS may only release data to the same entities that provide data. For children on Medicaid, the Act allows the CIIS to release immunization information to the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Finance. Releasing or making public confidential immunization records in the immunization tracking system in an unauthorized manner is a misdemeanor.

## **HIPAA and Disclosure Tracking**

CDPHE has authorized CIIS to run an immunization registry. The CIIS is acting under a grant of the CDPHE's public health authority.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) allows disclosure of "protected health information" by health plans and health care providers to a public health authority when the disclosure is required or permitted by state law. CDPHE is authorized by Colorado law to collect immunization information.

HIPAA requires that disclosures made to a public health authority be tracked. The CIIS provides a feature that tracks disclosures for all parties that submit immunizations to the registry.

## **CIIS Provides Benefits to Providers, Members, and Health Plans**

### **Health Care Providers**

Immunizations entered by other offices for new patients can be retrieved.

Immunization forms for school, day care, and camp can be printed without pulling charts.

Labels can be produced for reminder or recall notices. (Availability planned for March 2004)

Function under development to flag the immunization series due based on the ACIP immunization schedule.

Data required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act can be recorded.

Vaccine usage can be tracked.

### **Members**

Immunization records are stored in one place.

Vaccination histories can be accessed by the child's:

- Parent

- School

- Day Care Center

- Physician or Health Care Provider

Immunization reminder notices can be sent by the child's physician or health care provider.

### **Health Plans**

Health plans can take an active role in improving immunization rates in Colorado by contributing data to the CIIS.

Health plans can access immunization data for required reporting such as Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS) and Medicaid without having to interrupt physician offices and clinics.

### **For more information about the CIIS, please contact them at:**

Colorado Immunization Information System

University of Colorado

Health Sciences Center

P.O. Box 6508/F456

Aurora, CO 80045-0508

888-611-9918

303-724-1074