

Achieving Meaningful Use through Immunization Registries

➡ *Texas Immunization Registry Forecaster*

In July 2010, STC integrated a decision support tool into the Texas immunization registry that forecasts patient immunizations given the specific demographics and vaccine histories of the individual. The tool is a stand-alone product that integrates with medical record systems, immunization registries, and health datasets to provide decision support for the end user. In the first 24 hours of operation, the forecasting tool accessed over 3,000 patient histories as requested by providers throughout the

state. Immunization forecasting is a complex process that requires a detailed understanding of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedules. New vaccines, new schedules, and vaccine disease prevention strategies require an up to date and current decision support tool specific to determining a patient's "past due, due, and next due" for each of the recommended age-appropriate vaccines.

➡ *Maine Immunization Record Exchange in Support of Meaningful Use*

Working with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, STC in 2005 established ImmPact2, a population-based registry to capture immunization encounters of state residents. ImmPact2 uses the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) solution supported by STC. To date, ImmPact2 consists of over 1.1 million patient records and over 4.9 million immunization records. In 2008 extensions were initiated to the ImmPact2 registry including the electronic exchange of immunization records from provider and clinic-based electronic medical record (EMR) systems. Since, 2009

Maine's ImmPact2 immunization registry has had in operation an electronic record exchange that supports today's Meaningful Use criteria for public health. The Maine ImmPact2 immunization registry offers to the providers a centralized data resource to capture patient information regardless of where the patient encounter occurred. The Meaningful Use immunization record electronic exchange that has been established facilitates information sharing of this vital health data. As a result cost savings and improved population health care can be achieved.

➡ *Immunization Information Exchange in Support of Louisiana Natural Disasters*

In the immediate aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, STC worked tirelessly with CDC and the Louisiana Office of Public Health to allow the communities absorbing the evacuated children access to the statewide immunization registry, Louisiana Immunization Network for Kids Statewide (LINKS). As survivors of the hurricane relocated, legible, credible immunization information was necessary both for school-aged evacuees to enter school and to reduce the threat of disease in the close quarters of the shelters. Within 24 hours after the evacuation, public

health workers in the Houston Astrodome were able to access the immunization records of Louisiana evacuees and within two weeks of the disaster, the other 49 states had obtained access to LINKS data either using HL7 or direct view only access. LINKS provided the required data to school nurses across the nation to assist in new student enrollment and eliminating the administration of unnecessary immunizations by verifying immunization status, thereby achieving a documented cost saving of tens of millions of dollars.

For more information or a demonstration, please contact
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