

# North Carolina Immunization Registry

## What can my office do to get ready?

The new registry's introduction will call for changes in the way immunization business is done. Immunizations will be entered directly into the registry at the time they are administered. It is never too early to get started with what we are calling "registry readiness activities." We have developed readiness tools to help health care providers think about and prepare for the new registry. The readiness tools offer suggested activities in four areas: (1) community resources, (2) staffing and training, (3) immunization data issues, and (4) hardware/technology resources.

To get ready, both public and private providers can:

- ◆ ensure all staff members are comfortable using the Internet;
- ◆ work jointly or meet with other providers in your county;
- ◆ discuss/plan with your staff how immunization service delivery will function with the new registry; and
- ◆ acquire technological capabilities in appropriate areas for full registry use.

**For more information about assistance with readiness activities, call 1-877-USE NCIR (1-877-873-6247).**

## What are NCIR's technical requirements?

PC/Hardware minimum requirements:

- ◆ 100 Mhz Pentium processor (500Mhz or higher recommended)
- ◆ 32 MB of RAM (64MB or higher recommended)
- ◆ 500 MB of free space on hard disk
- ◆ screen display set at a minimum of 800x600 resolution and 256 colors
- ◆ mouse
- ◆ printer connection
- ◆ Internet connection

PC Software requirements:

- ◆ Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 5.0 or higher
- ◆ Windows 95, 98, ME, NT or XP
- ◆ Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or later (available at no charge for downloading via web)

For more information, call the N.C. Immunization Branch at (919) 707-5550 or visit us on-line at [www.immunizenc.com](http://www.immunizenc.com).



*Bringing waves of change  
to North Carolina's  
Immunization Providers*

## What is the NCIR?

The North Carolina Immunization Registry (NCIR) is a secure, web-based clinical tool, which will become the official source for North Carolina immunization information. The NCIR will take the place of handwritten charting of immunizations administered in the state. Immunization providers will be able to access all childhood immunizations administered in North Carolina, regardless of the medical home in which the immunizations were given.

This web-based system, called the NCIR, will be used by all Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) providers in North Carolina. The registry is being developed to meet its primary function – to connect and share information among private provider offices, local health departments and other facilities who receive UCVDP-supplied vaccines.

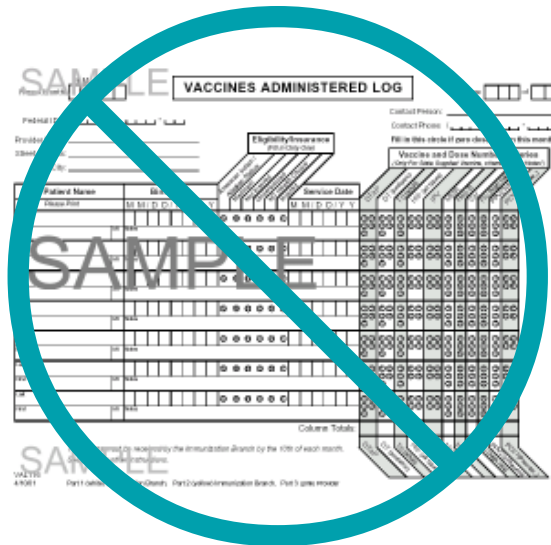
The primary purposes of the NCIR are

- ◆ to give patients, parents, health care providers, schools and child care facilities timely access to complete, accurate and relevant clinical immunization records;
- ◆ to assist health care providers in evaluating the immunization status of their patients and identifying children who need or are past due for immunizations;
- ◆ to help communities assess their immunization coverage and identify pockets of need; and
- ◆ to fulfill federal and state immunization reporting requirements.

## What are providers' benefits?

For providers, the immunization registry will:

- ◆ eliminate the use of Vaccine Administration Logs (VALs), since vaccine accountability for state-supplied vaccine will be handled through the registry;
- ◆ provide access to real-time clinical immunization information;
- ◆ consolidate immunizations from all providers into one record;
- ◆ provide a reliable immunization history for any child, whether a new or continuing patient;
- ◆ provide current vaccine recommendations;
- ◆ improve quality of patient care;
- ◆ reduce staff time because staff members will spend substantially less time obtaining records from other providers and responding to records requests from other providers; and
- ◆ enable accurate, real-time immunization assessment.



## Is the NCIR HIPAA-compliant?

Yes! The NCIR has been deemed to be a public health authority and therefore declared exempt from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy regulations. Covered entities are permitted under HIPAA to report information to Public Health Authorities; HIPAA does not supercede state law in this respect.

North Carolina public health law requires the sharing of immunization information with the following entities.

1. N.C. Department of Health and Human Services;
2. Local health departments;
3. Physicians;
4. Schools K-12;
5. Colleges and universities;
6. Licensed and registered childcare facilities;
7. Head Start;
8. Health Maintenance Organizations; and
9. Other state and local health departments outside of North Carolina.

Each of these user types will only be able to use the registry functions that apply to them. For example, only staff at facilities that administer vaccinations will be allowed to enter administered immunizations into the registry.

**“Having the N.C. Immunization Registry in our clinic will be a dream come true! I cannot wait to be able to access all of our county’s children with just a mouse click.”**

Carole Watson, RN  
Forsyth County Department of Public Health