

# CIR News

THE CITYWIDE IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

## Hib Vaccine Update

We expect the supply of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine to improve this summer. This means you may be able to start giving the Hib vaccine booster dose to healthy children.

For information about vaccine supply, contact the VFC program at (212) 447-8175. For assistance with the use of Hib-containing vaccines, call (212) 676-2323.

We will keep you informed as we receive updates.

## New "Disease Indicator" Feature

The Online Registry's new "Disease Indicator" field lets you record your patients' history of chicken pox and proof of immunity to measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis A and/or hepatitis B.

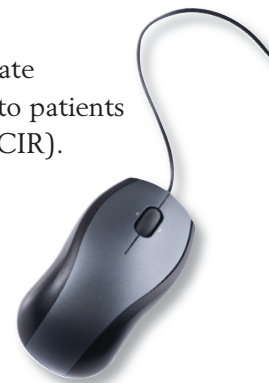


## Reporting Goes Paperless

As we informed you in previous communications, New York State requires providers to **electronically** report immunizations given to patients under 19 years of age to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). Paper reporting is no longer available.

You can report electronically to the CIR by:

- Using the Online Registry, or
- Sending electronic files from your encounter, billing or clinical management system.



In addition to offering printouts of Child and Adolescent Health Examination Forms (CH-205) with immunizations already entered, the Online Registry is the fastest way to report to the CIR. The immunizations you just gave, as well as historical immunizations, can be added online and are reported in real time (i.e., immediately). Using the Registry to add historical shots also ensures that patients' immunization histories are complete in the CIR. This can help your office meet the Vaccines for Children's (VFC's) 90% reporting requirement.

To set up access to the Online Registry, call **(212) 676-2323**.

## Vaccine Soon Available for Underinsured Patients

The Bureau of Immunization will soon provide vaccine for your underinsured patients. An "underinsured" patient is a child or adolescent who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, covers only selected vaccines or caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount.

To participate, you must report the underinsured patient's current VFC eligibility status to the CIR as: "Insurance Does Not Cover Vaccine."

We will send you enrollment information in the coming months.

### To Order Vaccine

- For your VFC-eligible and underinsured patients, call the VFC program at **(212) 447-8175**.
- For all other patients, call your distributor or the manufacturer. For a list of distributors and manufacturers, visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health).

## CIR Honor Roll

The Bureau of Immunization is pleased to honor the following providers who have improved their CIR coverage and met or exceeded the 90% coverage rate for two-year-olds for the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series by chart review:

**Taiye Apoeso, MD**  
Children of Zion Pediatrics  
Bronx, NY

**Teddy Liu, MD**  
Flushing, NY

**Claudine Mathieu, MD**  
Neighborhood and Family Community Health  
Bronx, NY

**Erica Phillips, MD**  
New York Presbyterian-Columbia Hospital,  
Long Island City Community Practice  
Long Island City, NY

**Salamat Majeed, MD**  
Floral Park Medical Care  
Floral Park, NY

**Charles B. Wang Community Health Center**  
Flushing, NY

## CIR Best Practices

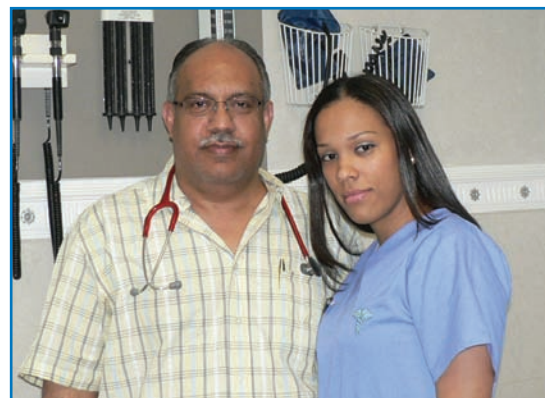
### Jesus Pichardo MD Pediatric Center



A year and a half ago, Jesus Pichardo, MD, the lead pediatrician of a very large practice (with 10 exam rooms) on the Brooklyn-Queens border, made the decision to use the Online Registry and to take advantage of its reporting features. "It's about time. Let's do it," he said.

Now, Johanny Rodriguez, a medical assistant in the practice, uses the Online Registry to ensure that all immunizations are recorded by the end of the day. The Registry has

become an indispensable tool in her daily routine. She knows all the CIR vaccine codes by heart. When she receives a patient's chart, Johanny can quickly check the patient's immunization status in the Registry, add new or historical immunizations and generate printouts to alert her when patients' immunizations are due, therefore saving time and streamlining office procedures.



Jesus Pichardo, MD and Johanny Rodriguez, Medical Assistant

Dr. Pichardo and seven full-time pediatricians see over 220 patients a day, the majority of whom receive immunizations. Nearly all of their patients are covered by Medicaid or Child Health Plus, making them eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Dr. Pichardo's office administers more than 25,000 VFC doses annually. The Online Registry adds much needed efficiency to the practice. "It's quick and easy to report using the Online Registry. Plus, online reporting guarantees we meet VFC's 90% reporting requirement," says Dr. Pichardo.

Using the Online Registry to report current and historical immunizations and to look up patients' immunizations has significantly increased Dr. Pichardo's up-to-date coverage percentage, especially for two year-olds completing the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series. In December 2007, before using the Online Registry, the practice's CIR coverage rate was 42%, with only 278 of 660 two-year-olds up to date. In March 2008, just three months after the office started using the Online Registry, their CIR coverage rate jumped to 81%. From March 2008 to January 2009, the practice's CIR coverage rate averaged 79%, and is closing in on the 90% target. Dr. Pichardo credits his hard-working staff and the invaluable features of the Online Registry for this great progress.

