



# CRA

## Countermeasure and Response Administration

### Background

Events including the threat of pandemic influenza, SARS outbreaks, smallpox preparedness and the anthrax attacks have all demonstrated that information systems are critical to managing the response and to tracking the countermeasures administered for containing and preventing further outbreaks. CDC must be ready at all times to respond to and manage public health emergencies. During a public health emergency there is a need to manage information about the event, what countermeasures are available, and who has received them. Countermeasures may include pharmaceuticals such as vaccines and anti-virals, medical materials such as masks and ventilators and other interventions such as isolation and quarantine. Once countermeasures are received, there is a need to monitor their effectiveness and identify any resulting adverse events. Post event, there is a need to analyze the information to help better prepare for future emergencies. The Countermeasure and Response Administration (CRA) program now has two systems for addressing these needs: countermeasure administration tracking and countermeasure inventory tracking.

### Countermeasure Administration Tracking

The CRA Countermeasure Administration Tracking (CAT) system is one tool public health partners may choose to manage countermeasure and response administration activities within their jurisdictions. In addition, for selected events such as the National Smallpox Vaccination Program and the National Pandemic Influenza Plan, CAT supports CDC's cross-jurisdictional reporting needs by providing flexible methods for accepting data from other systems or by extracting summarized data. CAT's advanced functionality ensures individuals receive recommended countermeasures and then tracks and manages treatments, prophylaxes, vaccinations and quarantine. The system includes such capabilities as:

- Custom event creation and configuration
- Management of multiple simultaneous events
- Tracking of single and multiple dose dispensing of countermeasures
- Management of isolation and quarantine information

The Countermeasure Administration Tracking system is a Web-based application deployed centrally at CDC via the Secure Data Network (SDN). It is Internet accessible using any standard Web browser in conjunction with a CDC issued digital certificate. In situations where the Internet is down or inaccessible, CRA may be deployed offline on a stand-alone basis.





## Countermeasure Inventory Tracking

The CRA Countermeasure Inventory Tracking (CIT) system, currently in prototype, will provide the quantities and location of selected critical pharmaceuticals and medical materials within the commercial market. During an emergency, this information will be combined with corresponding data from federal stockpiles and vaccine supplies, and if available, state and local stockpiles, to provide a full picture of countermeasure supplies. Initial priorities for tracking within CIT include antiviral medications for pandemic influenza and selected pharmaceuticals for Category A conditions (Anthrax, Botulism, Plague, Smallpox, Tularemia and viral hemorrhagic fevers).

## Future Status

Future plans for CAT include delivering preconfigured individual-level data collection screens based on accepted practice and CDC guidance for priority events involving the national planning scenarios. In addition, expanded data exchange capabilities with a range of CDC and public health partner systems will be added to identify, track and manage a full range of countermeasure and response activities using PHIN messaging standards. Point of dispensing (POD) deployment will continue to be simplified for easy local installation and automatic synchronization with the central database.

Future plans for CIT include making the system available to public health project areas and expanding tracking to include medical materials.

## CRA Informatics and Partner Liaison Support

Subject matter experts (SMEs) are available to answer questions and respond to inquiries about CRA systems and their use within the practice of public health. CRA SMEs work closely with other CDC resources, including the PHIN Help Desk and Secure Data Network (SDN), to ensure public health partner inquiries and requirements are handled as quickly and efficiently as possible. They also provide information on upcoming events and initiatives.

## Key PHIN Contact Information

**Website:** <http://www.cdc.gov/phin>

**PHIN Email:** [PHINtech@cdc.gov](mailto:PHINtech@cdc.gov)

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