

Health Plan/Payor Participation in the Texas Immunization Registry

Background

ImmTrac is a confidential central repository of immunization records for Texas children under 18 years of age designed to consolidate immunization records from multiple sources statewide to provide the most complete immunization history for a child. ImmTrac contains over 41 million immunization records for more than 5 million Texas children. The use of immunization registries has been shown to improve vaccine coverage levels. ImmTrac is a major component of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) strategy to improve vaccine coverage levels.

Issue

Texas law requires payors (insurance company, HMO, or other organization that pays a health care provider to provide health care benefits) to report immunization information regarding vaccines administered to children under 18 years of age whose parents have provided consent for participation in the registry. Providers are required to maintain evidence of consent. Health plans and other payors are not able to determine and track parental consent and do not have notification systems in place for providers to notify the health plan that consent is on file. In the past, state law did not authorize health plans and other payors to have access to registry data.

Current Status

Effective January, 1, 2005, House Bill 1921 (78th Legislature) and Texas Administrative Code require that payors report immunization information regarding all vaccines administered to children under 18 years of age. Immunization information shall be reported within 30 days of receipt of the information from a provider regardless of consent status. DSHS will assume the responsibility to verify parental consent prior to inclusion of the child's record in the registry and relieve providers and payors from this responsibility. HB1921 also authorizes payors to have access to registry data.

DSHS is seeking to inform health plans and other payors about the change in reporting requirements, options for reporting to ImmTrac, and options for accessing registry data. DSHS is seeking input from health plans and other payors regarding development of data access processes and report formats to facilitate use of registry data.

Health Plan/Payor Reporting to ImmTrac

- Electronic import of immunization data to ImmTrac is available to payors and providers through the use of the ImmTrac *Electronic Transfer Standards*. Import files can be uploaded to ImmTrac via the secure ImmTrac web application or through File Transfer Protocol (ftp).
- Single client searching and updating of immunization data is available to payors and providers online via the ImmTrac web application.

Health Plan/Payor Access to ImmTrac Data

- Electronic access to registry data is available to payors via an inquiry process that allows the health plan to submit client identifying and demographic information. ImmTrac searches the database and returns the available immunization history for the client via secure download or file transfer.
- Single client searching and generation of immunization histories is available to payors online via the ImmTrac web application.

For additional information about ImmTrac and health plan/payor participation in ImmTrac, please contact the ImmTrac Customer Support Team at (800) 348-9158 or by e-mail at ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us.