

### **Background**

ImmTrac, the Texas immunization registry, is a free service of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). This secure, confidential registry stores a child's immunization information electronically in one central system and offers physicians, parents and schools easy access to a child's immunization history. ImmTrac can help physicians and parents ensure that children are vaccinated on time and protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. Parental consent is required for a child to be included in ImmTrac.

### **Implementation of House Bill 1921**

On January 1, 2005, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) implemented the legislative requirements of House Bill (HB) 1921. The 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2003) adopted HB 1921 to reduce confusion about parental consent requirements, increase provider and client participation, protect the privacy and confidentiality of registry data, and increase the utility of the registry and registry data.

Key requirements of HB 1921 are outlined below:

#### **Increase provider and client participation**

- All health care providers and payors (insurance company, health maintenance organization, or another organization that pays a health care provider to provide health care benefits) are required to report to ImmTrac all vaccines administered to children under 18 years of age.
- During the birth certificate registration process, parents must be given the opportunity to grant consent for registry participation or request that their child be excluded from the registry.
- A parent may submit a child's immunization history to ImmTrac to be included in the registry.

#### **Protect the privacy and confidentiality of registry data**

- DSHS is responsible for verifying that parental consent has been granted prior to including immunization information in ImmTrac. DSHS shall maintain evidence of parental consent.
- No individually identifiable information may be retained about a person for whom consent cannot be verified.
- ImmTrac must delete a child's immunization record from the registry after receiving a written withdrawal of consent from the parent.
- DSHS must provide notice to health care providers who submit immunization histories on persons for whom consent cannot be verified.
- DSHS must provide notification to the child's parent the first time registry data are received for a child for whom the department has received consent to be included in the registry.

#### **Increase utility of registry and registry data**

- Registry information may now be released to the following authorized entities:
  - a child's parent
  - public health districts and local health departments
  - a physician to the child or any provider authorized to administer vaccines
  - a school or childcare facility in which the child is enrolled
  - an insurance company, health maintenance organization or payor, and
  - a state agency having legal custody of a child
- DSHS and authorized providers may use registry data for sending reminder/recall notices.

#### **ImmTrac CUSTOMER SUPPORT**

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