



## TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Immunization Registry Data Exchange Fact Sheet

*For more information contact the Tennessee Immunization Program Registry Unit*

The Tennessee Immunization Program (TIP) Registry Unit within the Department of Health has programmatic oversight of the State Immunization Information System (SIIS, "Registry") and its web interface, known as the Tennessee Web Immunization System (TWIS). This information sheet outlines basic information about healthcare provider access to the information in the Registry for three groups: any interested immunization provider; immunization providers and medical record vendors interested in electronic data exchange to obtain Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) "Meaningful Use" Electronic Health Record (EHR) adoption incentives; and, hospitals interested in electronic data exchange.

### **1. Any immunization provider with internet access may use TWIS at: <https://twis.tn.gov>**

- a. *Who may register for secure site access to patient data?* Authorized Immunization Providers (AIPs) include anyone who may prescribe or independently administer an immunization (physician, advance practice nurse, physician assistant, pharmacist). AIPs may authorize staff members under their user agreement.
- b. *What types of services are available today, at no cost, through the TWIS website?*
  - i. Locate a patient's record of immunizations given by any provider who reports data to the Registry; manually update or correct a patient's record in TWIS.
  - ii. Print a child's Official Tennessee Immunization Certificate, required for pre-school or school.
  - iii. Review vaccine news and retrieve archived forms and updates for participants in the federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.
  - iv. Participants in the VFC program may use the Vaccine Inventory Management tool and access copies of VFC updates and forms.
  - v. Register for certain immunization activities, including VFC, as needed.
- c. *How does such a provider learn more or sign up?* Visit <https://twis.tn.gov> to initiate online registration. The process can easily be completed within a week.

### **2. Immunization providers or vendors representing providers interested in electronic data exchange and eligible for CMS "Meaningful Use" EHR adoption incentives**

- a. *Benefits* depend on whether the provider *submits* data or *exchanges* data with the Registry. Submission only (VXU messages) connections meet "Meaningful Use" minimum requirements and update the Registry with immunizations given in the practice; however, the provider must access the patient record in TWIS to see doses given in any other site that submits data to the Registry. Bidirectional messaging (VXQ and VXR) locates the patient in the registry and uploads vaccine information from other sources into the provider's patient record, so clinic employees do not need to check TWIS for records of shots given elsewhere. (VXQ, VXR and VXU are particular types of HL7 standard message formats.)
- b. *Basics:* the Immunization Registry is currently capable of establishing electronic data exchange using HL7 version 2.3.1 standard messages.

- c. Options for Electronic Data Exchange:
- i. Providers who participate in Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) or other health information exchanges (HIEs) in Tennessee working with Health Information Partnership for Tennessee (HIP-TN) will establish one-way submission of data with the Registry. Timing: testing of submission of data to the Registry will begin later in 2011. Providers choosing this route should work with appropriate contacts.
  - ii. Direct electronic data exchange connection: Providers who prefer data exchange, but not through the HIP-TN mechanism described above, may establish direct data exchange connections with the Registry. Providers who choose this option should contact the TIP Registry Unit (1-800-404-3006 or [nancy.l.williams@tn.gov](mailto:nancy.l.williams@tn.gov)) to obtain a data test plan from the Registry Unit. The time until live data exchange varies and depends upon the quality and speed of testing.
  - iii. Facilities that establish direct connections may move to connect through a RHIO/HIE and HIP-TN at a later date, if preferred.

### 3. Hospitals interested in data exchange with Registry

- a. *Benefits:* Although hospitals may choose other public health reporting options to fulfill requirements for CMS “Meaningful Use” EHR adoption incentives, data exchange with the Registry is valuable to hospitals because it will enable the hospital to permanently and easily record immunizations frequently given or required to be assessed and offered in hospitals, including influenza immunization (or other immunizations) of hospital staff, and the 1-time pneumococcal vaccine and annual influenza vaccine for inpatients for whom these immunizations are appropriate.
- b. Hospitals have the same options for Registry access as individual health care providers. Appropriate hospital personnel may register as TWIS authorized users for direct web access to patient records as described in bullet 1 above. Hospitals should refer to information for individual providers (bullet 2 above) about options for connections facilitated by HIP-TN or direct connection.

For ways to reach the TIP Registry Unit, visit <https://twis.tn.gov> or call the Department of Health Communicable and Environmental Disease Services Section at 615-741-7247.