

## Health Plan/Payor Participation in the Texas Immunization Registry

### Background

ImmTrac is a confidential, central repository of immunization records for Texas children less than 18 years of age. The Registry is designed to consolidate immunization records from multiple sources statewide to provide the most complete immunization history for a child. ImmTrac contains over 73 million immunization records for more than 5.8 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.

On January 1, 2005, DSHS implemented the legislative requirements of House Bill 1921. The 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2003) adopted House Bill 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. On September 1, 2007, new legislation (Senate Bill 11, 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature) changed the consent process previously practiced, and added new functionality to ImmTrac for use in community preparedness and to include first responders and their immediate family members 18 years and older.

Texas law now requires that payors (insurance company, HMO, or other organization that pays a health care provider to provide health care benefits) report immunization information regarding all vaccines administered to children less than 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 is responsible for verifying that parental consent has been granted prior to including immunization information in ImmTrac. DSHS may do this by accepting affirmation from a health care provider, birth registrar or local registry that proper written parental consent has been obtained. No individually identifiable information may be included or retained about a person for whom consent cannot be verified. Texas law now authorizes payors to have access to registry data.

### Current Status

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*. Immunization data may be submitted to ImmTrac by the following methods:

- Import files may be uploaded to ImmTrac via the secure ImmTrac web application,
- Import files may be submitted to ImmTrac via encrypted File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Medicaid and CHIP client encounter data submitted to HHSC will be electronically sent to ImmTrac via the ImmTrac-HHSC Interface

### *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 for multiple clients. ImmTrac searches the registry database and returns the available immunization history for each client via secure download or encrypted FTP.
- 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 ImmTrac Customer Support at (800) 348-9158 or by e-mail at [ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us).