

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Wisconsin Chapter

Position Statement – Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)

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Background: The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR), released statewide in 2000, is a confidential, secure Internet database application that was developed to record and track immunization dates of Wisconsin's children and adults. Administered by the Department of Health Services, it provides assistance for keeping everyone on track for their recommended immunizations by integrating information from birth and death records, public and private health care providers and parental records. WIR has several security features built into its system to ensure confidentiality and it is compliant with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1966 (HIPAA) standards.

Immunization registries are seen as an integral tool for ensuring that children and adults receive their immunizations according to recommended schedules. WIR is provided by the State of Wisconsin at no cost to providers, including statewide demonstrations and trainings to demonstrate to how WIR improves immunization status of patients and the efficiency of their practices. Owing to the prevalence of usage of electronic medical records, there are also means to connect WIR to provider database(s).

Entering vaccinations into a registry such as WIR prevents over-immunizing, which is a risk and unnecessary expense, when providers are unaware of immunizations others. WIR is able to record immunizations, contraindications and reactions; validate immunization history and provide recommendations, produce recall and reminder notices and manage vaccine inventory. Using WIR, health care organizations reduce staff time, save money and reduce missed vaccination opportunities.

Each year, approximately 69,000 children are born in Wisconsin, each needing 18-22 immunizations by age six to protect them from life-threatening diseases. New vaccines are becoming available quickly, resulting in a complex childhood immunization schedule for this large population.

The ability to track families as they relocate is also a challenge, since the average family relocates multiple times over a lifetime, with medical records and immunization records at risk for being left behind. As many as 25% of children visit two or more providers before their third birthday.

Because vaccination records are stored in WIR, patients will be fully immunized, but not over-immunized, saving the time and expense associated with locating immunization records and providing immunization information.

WIAAP Position Statement: Wisconsin Immunization Registry
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Revised January 23, 2018

Position: The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP) supports efforts that will improve access to vaccinations for children as a means of to improving vaccination rates. This goal offers benefits in both protection of individuals and decreasing the spread of disease within communities. Accurate record keeping is integral in monitoring immunization programs and maintaining the safest and most effective results for individuals.

Any providers who provide vaccines should be responsible for entering the doses administered in the recipient's record in the Wisconsin Immunization Registry. Records should include date, time, manufacturer, lot number and body site of vaccine.

Sources:

Immunization Information Systems (American Academy of Pediatrics):

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/immunizations/Practice-Management/Pages/immunization-information-systems.aspx>

Immunization Information Systems (IIS) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention):

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/index.html>

Progress in Childhood Vaccination Data in Immunization Information Systems – United States, 2013-2016 (US Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report):

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6643a4-H.pdf>, November 3, 2017, Vol. 66, No. 43., pp 1178-1181.

Wisconsin Immunization Registry Information (Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing, Division of Public Health):

<https://www.dhfswir.org/docs/Provider%20-%20WIR%20Brochure.pdf>

Wisconsin Immunization Registry (Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Immunization Program, revised July 2015):

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p42154.pdf>