T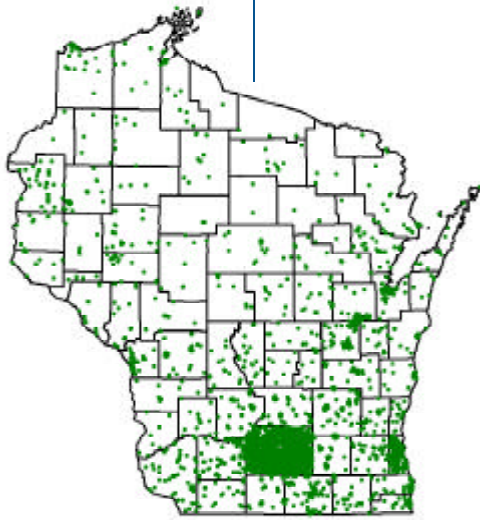 he map below shows the current locations of patients across the state who have received at least one immunization from the Dane County Health Department.

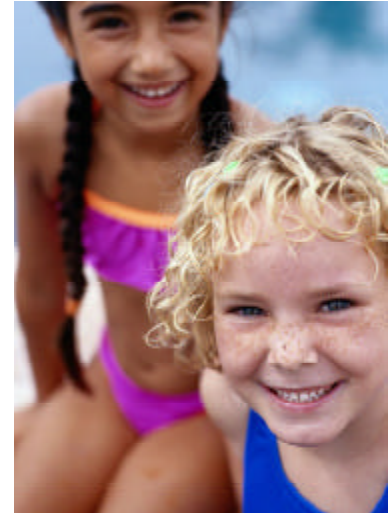Need assistance tracking down your patients' past immunizations? WIR can help.

PHC 13071

Leading the Way to Healthier Lives

Isn't it worth a few hours of training to make sure they're fully immunized?

WIR
Wisconsin Immunization Registry

Department of Health and Family Services
Division of Health Care Financing
Division of Public Health

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

Keeping track of families is another challenge for health care professionals. The average family relocates multiple times over the course of a lifetime, frequently leaving medical records and valuable immunization information behind. As many as 25% of children visit two or more providers for immunizations before their third birthday.

With an initial investment of just a few hours of training, you can ensure that the children in your practice — even those who are new patients — are fully immunized. This initial investment will also produce future savings of time and expense associated with locating immunization records and providing immunization information.

What is the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)?
The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) is administered by the Department of Health and Family Services and is a confidential, computerized repository of individual immunization records that integrates information from birth and death records, public and private health care providers, and parental records. WIR's most basic function is to be a tracking tool to help keep children on schedule for their recommended immunizations. WIR is also able to record immunizations, contraindications, and reactions; validate immunization history and provide recommendations; produce recall and reminder notices; manage vaccine inventory; and much more, all at no cost to providers.

Benefits of using WIR
WIR aids your health care organization by saving both time and money. By using WIR, health care organizations:

- Reduce staff time needed to obtain scattered immunization records.
- Reduce expenses and risk incurred by administering duplicate immunizations.
- Reduce missed vaccination opportunities.

WIR training takes an average of just three hours for the typical user and can be held at a time and place convenient for you and your staff.

What can WIR do for you?

WIR has many features to help you with the entire immunization process. With WIR you will be able to:

♦ Immediately access a patient's validated immunization history, whether administered by a public or private provider within the state.

♦ Identify each patient's needed immunizations using the Centers for Disease Control and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC/ACIP) Harmonized Childhood Immunization Schedule or a custom tracking schedule that you design.

♦ Enter current and historical immunization information from public and private providers and parent records.

♦ Track your organization's vaccine inventory, and be alerted when a vaccine's inventory is running low or is about to expire.

♦ Generate patient recall and reminder letters, cards, labels, and lists.

♦ Produce standardized documents detailing a patient's immunization history and needs for use in the office record and to give to parents.

♦ Produce Clinic Assessment Software Application (CASA) extracts for immunization assessment reporting.

- Reduce costs associated with pulling records for the Clinic Assessment Software Application (CASA).
- Decrease incidence of disease.
- Decrease incidence of vaccine adverse reactions.
- Prevent vaccine waste through better inventory management.
- Reduce staff time needed to produce recall and reminder notices.
- Improve efficiency of office operations.

Staff training
WIR training takes an average of just three hours for the typical user and can be held at a time and place convenient for you and your staff.

WIR is designed to be user friendly, so your staff will be able to use the system with little assistance following training. The average WIR user feels comfortable with the system after just one week of use. When help is needed, WIR also offers screen-specific online help, a printable online user manual, and technical support from the WIR Help Desk.

Saving time on data entry
Using WIR will actually save your staff time when entering immunization information. It takes less than one minute for the average user to update a patient's immunization history with new immunizations. Using WIR saves

a nurse or other health care professional time when looking for a patient's record, evaluating what immunizations are due, and entering lot numbers of the vaccines administered. In addition, it has the ability to greatly reduce the incidence of missed vaccinations and premature vaccinations.

Security and confidentiality
WIR has several security features built into its system to ensure the confidentiality of your patients' information. WIR uses data encryption for all data going to and from WIR and is compliant with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) standards.

Getting started
Since WIR is a Web-based application, there is no installation or software downloads necessary to get started; your organization needs only a personal computer with an Internet connection. In fact, once your staff is trained on WIR, you will be able to begin using it to enter information immediately. In addition, WIR will not cause problems with existing software you may have on your computer system. If you are already using an electronic immunization database, options are available to link your existing database with WIR.

There is no cost to health care providers for WIR use or training. Before using the registry, health care professionals need to attend a WIR training session and sign an enrollment confidentiality agreement.

Contact information
To set up a no-cost WIR demonstration or training, contact:

WIR Training/Registration Coordinator
(608) 266-2346

Contact the WIR Help Desk if you have technical questions regarding WIR:

wirhelp@dhfs.state.wi.us
(608) 266-9691