

How AFIX Visits Enhanced The NYSDOH Immunization Registry (NYSIIS)

In Suffolk County, NY

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Background

- The New York State law implementing the Immunization Registry (NYSIIS) went into effect in Suffolk County, NY on 1/1/08
- Since its inception it has been an ongoing struggle to have private providers fully comply with data entry of all vaccine records, especially history.
- Staffing issues is the reason cited most often for lack of compliance
- Other private practices have not implemented computer systems that have internet access
- Some practices believe that entering immunizations into NYSIIS amounts to double charting
- Yet other practices are entering only the vaccines that they have administered, leaving out any vaccine history they have obtained
- Lack of immunization history and incomplete records decreases the usefulness of NYSIIS.



Population

- Suffolk County is a suburban county in NY with a population of 1.4 million people
- Census data from 2009 revealed that 314,600 children 18 years of age and younger reside in the county
- All of these children should be entered into NYSIIS
- About 30 private providers in Suffolk County have not yet made any attempt to participate in NYSIIS
- Additionally, influenza vaccine doses administered to adults at Public Health Influenza clinics are entered into NYSIIS

Setting

- There are currently over 300 practicing pediatricians and family practice providers in Suffolk County
- 8 community health centers run by SCDHS
- All are mandated by NYS law to enter all immunizations administered to children from birth through 18 years of age as well as immunization histories
- There are 238 providers who participate in the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).

Project Description

- SCDHS staff began to utilize the registry to conduct AFIX assessments
- The data found in the registry was far below what was needed to conduct the AFIX indicating less than optimal compliance
- AFIX assessments are mandatory for VFC providers
- Providers' offices were called and asked to fax immunization records to our office for inclusion in the AFIX
- The SCDHS staff offered to enter all of the missing immunization data into the registry for the providers thereby improving the accuracy of the registry
- This procedure actually made it easier for staff since they did not have to travel to private providers' office to complete the AFIX data entry
- Errors found in registry were also corrected
- The post assessment results were faxed to the provider, and were followed up with in person visits
- Any additional questions raised following post assessment visits were discussed via conference call with the staff
- Letters to practices that still have not complied with NYSIIS have been mailed by NYSDOH
- SCDHS staff is following up to ask these practices if they will fax a sample of immunization records to be entered into NYSIIS

Results/Lessons Learned

- **Private providers** were delighted to have a sizable portion of their **records entered into the registry**
- Their staff time was saved and the **usefulness of the registry was increased**
- Once usefulness of NYSIIS was increased, **private providers were more likely to continue to enter data on their own**
- **Accuracy of NYSIIS was improved**
- **NYSDOH** has used this model to **suggest that other counties enter private providers' immunization data** into the registry as part of AFIX assessments

Mildred Bliss Koslap age 3 years recovering from polio (1923) on left

