

CALIFORNIA IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY

Improving the Tracking and Delivery of Immunizations

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The California Immunization Registry (CAIR), formerly known as the Los Angeles-Orange Immunization Network (LINK), is a secure, web-based, confidential system that keeps track of patients' immunization records. CAIR allows physicians to view, update, and store consolidated immunization records that include immunizations given in their practices, as well as immunizations given by other physicians who use the registry.

The local CAIR region covers Los Angeles and Orange Counties. In this region, the registry is used by more than 900 health care providers, including physicians, clinics, hospitals, schools, and WIC centers. Currently, there are almost 2 million immunization records for children, adolescents, and adults in the registry; nearly half of all children under age 6 in this region have a record in CAIR. Work is currently underway to connect California's 10 regional registries so that users will be able to access records from across the state.

There are many reasons to use CAIR. Here are just a few:

1. CAIR helps to administer the right vaccines at the right time. The system can be used to...

- View immunizations given in a physician's practice and other physician offices.
- Instantly identify immunizations that are due at the office visit, as well as the next vaccine due date.
- Generate reminder and recall notices to let patients know which immunizations are due or overdue.


- Avoid missed opportunities to immunize and improve immunization coverage rates.

2. CAIR helps to manage a practice's vaccine supply/inventory.

- The system automatically records manufacturer and lot number, saving time and reducing errors.
- CAIR tracks up-to-the-minute vaccine inventory, avoiding the need to maintain a separate inventory system.
- CAIR generates vaccine usage reports so that a practice can avoid over- or under-ordering vaccines.

3. CAIR saves time and money.

- Practices participating in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program saved \$450 a year by using an immunization registry.
- Immunizations given by other health care providers can be viewed, thereby preventing costly duplicate immunizations.
- Because CAIR prints the California Immunization Record (Yellow Card), physicians won't need to handwrite records or recreate them if they are lost or if patients forget to bring them.

CAIR is available to all immunization providers at no charge. For more information, visit www.immunizelink.org or call the CAIR Los Angeles-Orange Region Help Desk at (213) 351-7411. 

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It's Time to
Order Vaccine for
the 2010-2011
Flu Season

For the 2010-2011 flu season, the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends universal influenza vaccination for all persons 6 months of age and older who do not have a contraindication to vaccination, such as an egg allergy.

A single trivalent vaccine will protect your patients from the flu virus strains that are most likely to circulate in the fall: A/California/7/2009, A/Perth/16/2009, and B/Brisbane/60/2008. Since the pandemic H1N1 strain is included in this year's seasonal vaccine, there will be no need for a separate pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination.

Trivalent seasonal flu vaccine will not be provided through the national centralized flu vaccine distribution program that was in place to support pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination.

Providers who usually purchase flu vaccine and have not yet placed a flu vaccine order with a manufacturer or distributor should do so immediately. Lists of manufacturers and distributors are posted at www.flusupplynews.com/resources.cfm and www.preventinfluenza.org/profs_production.asp.

Stay up-to-date with the latest flu vaccination information by visiting the following websites:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov
- California Department of Public Health: www.getimmunizedca.org
- California Immunization Coalition: www.immunizeca.org