
SECTION: REFERRALS, HEALTH LINKAGES AND INTEGRATION, AND OUTREACH

SUBJECT: Program Required Screening and Referral

ITEM: Immunization

Policy

Local agencies (LA) shall ensure WIC infants and children up to two years of age are screened and referred for immunizations at scheduled nutrition assessments using the participant's immunization record. The LA shall ensure the participants understand clearly that presence or absence of immunization documentation shall not be used to deny eligibility for WIC services or nutrition assistance.

The purchase of vaccines and delivery of immunizations are unallowable WIC costs.

Required Procedures

- I. Local agency staff shall screen the immunization status of all infants and children under the age of two years, using a documented immunization record, and provide referrals for immunizations when children are under-immunized or when the parent/caretaker does not present the immunization record, during scheduled nutrition assessments at:
 - A. Enrollment, and
 - B. Mid-Certification and
 - C. Re-Certification
- II. Local agencies shall:
 - A. Train staff that immunization records are requested as part of the WIC certification and health screening process, but are not required to obtain WIC benefits.
 - B. Train staff to interpret the immunization record to ensure an appropriate screening and referral is made.
 - C. Utilize the [minimum screening and referral protocol \(Appendix 970-100\)](#) when children are not screened and referred for immunizations by a more comprehensive means.

- D. Not use single issuance of food instruments as a stand-alone approach.
- E. Protect the confidentiality of its employees, applicants and participants by preventing the unauthorized disclosure of their confidential information (Refer to [WPM 120-10](#)).

Guidelines

WIC Program's role in immunization screening and referral is to support existing funded immunization activities. WIC activities should enhance rather than substitute for ongoing Immunization Program initiatives. There is no requirement for local agencies to document screening or immunization status.

LAs are encouraged to utilize a more comprehensive means to document immunization records when possible. A manual or computerized method that allows for screening, assessment, referral and tracking of immunization status such as the California Immunization Registry ([CAIR](#)) is considered a more comprehensive process, and local agencies are encouraged to continue with these efforts where applicable.

Local agencies may use the [Monthly Voucher Pick-up \(Appendix 970-20\)](#) process by following the established protocol.

Authority

WRO Policy Memo 803-AT – All States Memorandum 01-56

WRO Policy Memo 8/29/2011: Guidance for Providing Quality WIC Nutrition Services During Extended Certification Periods

Definitions

Documented Immunization Record (DIR) is defined as a record (electronic or paper) in which the actual vaccination dates are recorded. This includes the paper immunization record (from the provider), i.e., the yellow "California Immunization Record" (PM 298/IMM-75), an immunization registry, an automated data system, or a client chart (paper copy).

California Immunization Registry (CAIR) is California's statewide immunization registry network. Currently CAIR consists of nine multi-county regional immunization registries. Seven of the regions utilize the same software. In addition there are two other regional immunization registries each using a different software application, San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR) and the Regional Immunization Data Exchange (RIDE) serving eight counties surrounding Stanislaus County. Lastly, Imperial County operates with a county-based registry. Each registry provides a computerized system designed to assist providers to track patient records, reduce missed opportunities, and help fully immunize all children in California.

Confidential information includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Name;
- B. Social Security Number;
- C. Address;
- D. Telephone number;
- E. Family size and member names;
- F. Physical description;
- G. Income data;
- H. Employment history;
- I. Information on Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, or Cal Works status;
- J. Medical data;
- K. Food instrument issuance data that identifies the individual;
- L. Fair hearing documents that identifies the individual; and
- M. Discrimination complaint documents that identifies the individual.