

Data Quality Issues Experienced by MCOs via Texas Immunization Registry

Data Quality Issues:

1. Outdated Form of Data Exchange

IHQs are an outdated format to exchange data that impacts the MCOs and the registry.

Impacts to MCOs:

- Don't receive data back in a timely fashion o IHQ files often take 2-4 weeks to process
- Data returned on members may contain data gaps
 - Due to the outdated format of requesting data the IHR files are returned with a vaccine code set (CPT) which may result in gaps of missing data
 - The registry utilizes a vaccine code set (CVX) for recording its immunization data and not every CVX code is mapped to a designated CPT code
 - This results in vaccination histories containing no vaccine code
- Data cannot be corrected to fill in the gaps
 - The vaccinations histories that contain no vaccine code cannot be corrected as the CPT mapping to the CVX codes are set by the CDC

Impacts to Registry:

- Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) servers cannot handle the volume submitted by MCOs
 - IHQ files are submitted in large quantities by MCOs which causes strain on the systems and impacts other data exchange submissions
- Long processing times
 - Due to the large number of IHQ files and their sizes, the system get bogged down for long periods of time which slows down the overall file processing

2. Gaps in Data

MCOs often ask why the vaccination information for their members is incomplete or does not contain data. Below is a summary of factors that account for those issues:

- The registry is opt-in, requiring individuals to sign an official DSHS consent form to have their information stored in the registry (i.e. not all MCO members are registry clients)
- The registry contains only immunization data reported to it (i.e. not all health care providers report to the registry)
- Data quality issues prevent the immunization data from being imported to the registry (i.e. patient and vaccination information errors or provider location information errors)

Solutions:

Convert to HL7 2.5.1 via a Bi-directional Interface

To resolve these ongoing issues, it is strongly recommended for the MCOs to upgrade to a better and faster data exchange format known as HL7 2.5.1 via a bi-directional interface. This will allow the MCOs to:

- Query members in real-time
- Get immediate responses (no long processing times or large quantity of files)
- Get more robust vaccination information (no missing vaccine codes)

The IHQ files will not be accepted as a format of data exchange with the registry in the future (Date TBD)

Contact:

For more information and support, contact the Texas Immunization Registry and ask for “data exchange support.”

- Email: ImmTrac2@dshs.texas.gov
- Phone: 800-348-9158
- Website: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/immtrac/>