STREAMLINING SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR STUDENT IMMUNIZATION TRACKING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In healthcare, immunization tracking plays a vital role in ensuring employees and clinical students are protected from contracting illnesses from the patients they care for and observe. Healthcare workers are inherently at risk for exposure to, and possible transmission of, vaccine-preventable diseases.

Immunization tracking allows for healthcare organizations and educational institutions to manage the vaccination and health record requirements of their employees and students, those who have not been vaccinated yet, and those who are due for updated vaccines. Immunization tracking programs have many benefits,[1] including:

- Increased compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as well as state health requirements;

- Increased efficiency from less paperwork;

- Increased safety for employees, students, patients, and staff in healthcare settings;

- Interpretation of a complex immunization schedule; and

- Allowing the introduction of new vaccines or changes in vaccination schedules accordingly.

We've learned from COVID-19 the value of having an immunization tracking program in place that can endure rapidly-evolving conditions, especially in an industry like healthcare.

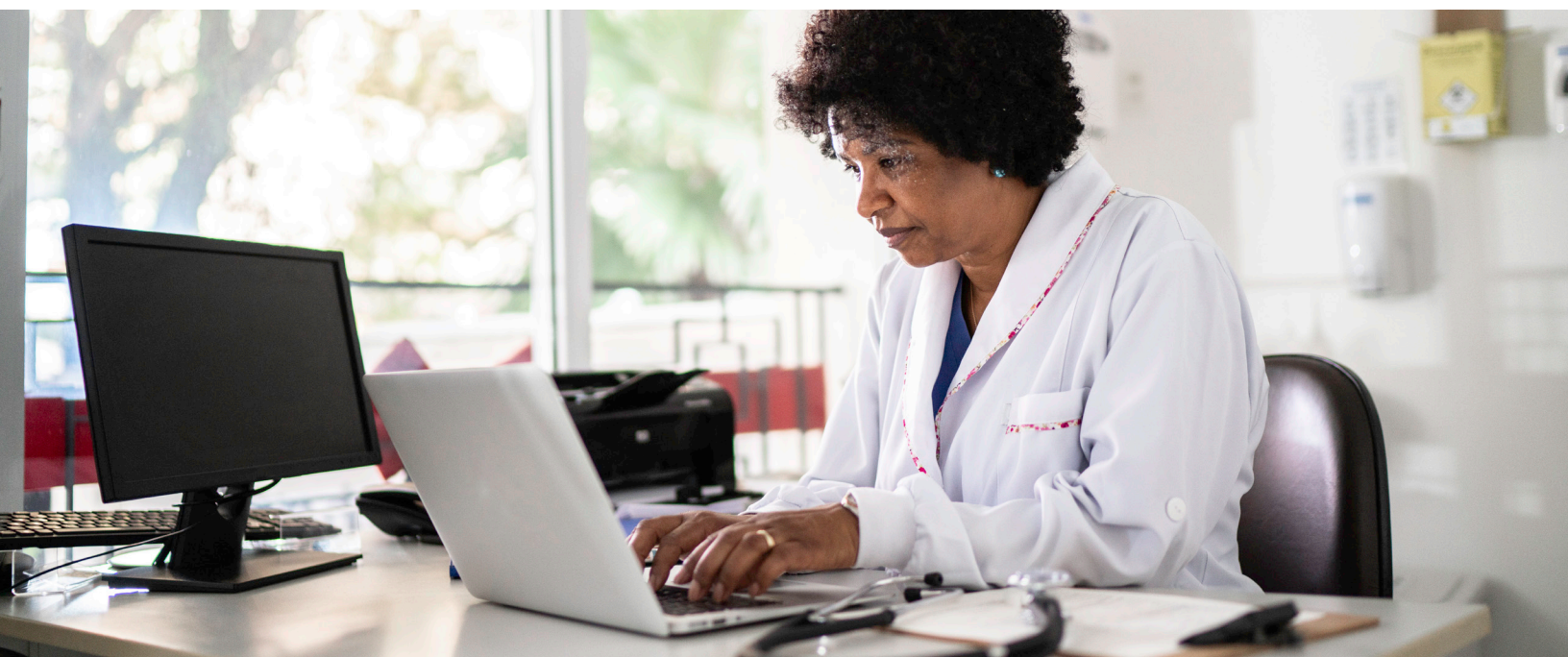## IMMUNIZATION TRACKING REQUIREMENTS

Immunization requirements vary by healthcare organizations for students and clinical rotations. Depending on the program, some of the following may be required:

- COVID-19, including boosters

- Hepatitis B

- Annual influenza vaccine

- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)

- Tetanus/DTaP

- Pneumococcal disease

- Varicella (chickenpox)

- Polio

Healthcare organizations should utilize an immunization tracking program that requires documentation of required vaccines, rather than a self-reporting system. This ensures that all data is authentic and validated by healthcare and medical record professionals, which increases safety and reduces liability.

KEY CHALLENGES

Perhaps the largest challenge when managing an immunization tracking program is ensuring it is compliant with all state and local guidelines.[2] Laws vary from state to state, and can even vary by type of facility. A good immunization tracking software will ensure healthcare organizations and

schools are compliant with each of these requirements. Another challenge for managing immunization tracking programs is the use of adequate technology.[2] Healthcare organizations and schools should strive to transition away from paper documentation systems, opting for a paperless repository that allows for uploading, validation, and compliance reporting. Electronic immunization tracking can increase vaccination rates,[3] increase the accuracy of vaccine documentation,[4] and reduce the time it takes to document vaccinations.[4] Selecting a solution that is secure and smart-phone friendly can also reduce document submission wait times and minimize exposure risk.

TOP FIVE FEATURES TO CONSIDER

Here are some key features to look for when selecting the right immunization tracking software for your organization:

1. **Software:** Select an immunization tracking program solution that meets your organization's unique immunization requirement needs, offers the flexibility of easy-to-make software changes, and is fully customizable (e.g., adding a COVID-19 booster requirement, or a seasonal influenza shot).

2. **Registration:** Healthcare organizations and schools benefit from the ability to mass-register users from a roster, as well as the ability for individuals to register themselves. A system that offers both options can simplify the registration process.

3. **Communication:** A good immunization tracking program will offer clear communication of required health forms and how to securely submit them, submission confirmations reviewed by healthcare professionals, and reminder notices to proactively keep employees and students up-to-date on the status of their immunizations.

4. **Implementation**: Look for an experienced implementation team to make onboarding an easy and seamless process, as well as customizable health requirements and due dates/deadlines. Converting from current systems can be stress-free with the right partner.

5. **Customer Service and Quality Assurance:** Healthcare organizations and schools should have an account management team dedicated to meeting specific needs and providing ongoing personalized assistance. This includes fast turnaround times, same-day response for administrator needs, proactive account reviews, software that can track and code to ensure all requirements are being met, and seasonal audits of the immunization tracking program.

CDC: VACCINATION LAWS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers an <u>overview of vaccination laws by state</u> for healthcare workers based on facility type:

- <u>Hepatitis B</u>
- Influenza
  - <u>Ambulatory Care Facility</u>
  - <u>Hospital</u>
  - <u>Long-Term Care Facility</u>
- <u>Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)</u>
- <u>Pertussis</u>
- Pneumococcal Disease
  - <u>Ambulatory Care Facility</u>
  - <u>Hospital</u>
  - <u>Long-Term Care Facility</u>
- <u>Varicella (Chickenpox)</u>

Immunization tracking can be complicated, with various requirements and program types, but with the right partner, it doesn't have to be. By following a comprehensive vetting process, healthcare organizations can streamline their program while making the process as seamless as possible.

PRECHECK CAN HELP

PreCheck's immunization tracking and health record management service is designed to facilitate the tracking and management of immunizations and various other records of students and employees. Healthcare standards require that all individuals have received certain vaccinations, and PreCheck can help you streamline the way you manage records to ensure compliance.

PreCheck has been managing student background screening, drug testing, and immunization tracking programs for decades, serving more than 1,000 allied health programs nationwide. To request a demo of PreCheck's Immunization Tracking solution in partnership with Sentry MD, email sales@precheck.com or visit us at www.precheck.com.

CITATIONS

1. Sentry MD, Compliance With Your Organization's Requirements.

2. Congressional Research Service, "Immunization Information Systems: Overview and Current Issues." February 1, 2022.

3. Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, "Immunization Information Systems to Increase Vaccination Rates: A Community Guide Systematic Review." 2014.

4. Applied Clinical Informatics. "Utilizing an Electronic Health Record System to Improve Vaccination Coverage in Children." July 14, 2010.

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At Cisive, we are experts in the specific risks and regulations that apply to the financial services and other highly regulated industries. For many years, we have provided tailored solutions to meet the unique requirements of our enterprise clients.

Cisive's service model provides a single, integrated system throughout the globe using complete applicant information and country-specific forms. Cisive returns information to our clients through a centralized system for analysis, quality control, presentation, and billing.

With over 4 decades of experience and expertise in working with many of the world's largest financial services institutions, Cisive's deep insight into employment screening practices and industry knowhow, is unlike any other background screening provider in the industry.

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ABOUT PRECHECK

Founded in 1983, PreCheck has focused exclusively on serving the healthcare industry's background screening and employment qualification needs since 1993.

PreCheck serves over 5,000 hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, educational institutions, and other ancillary healthcare organizations, across the U.S. PreCheck has evolved over time from a background screening provider into a turnkey outsourcing solutions provider, offering a full suite of background screening, compliance monitoring, and credentialing solutions all designed to help its clients adhere to the extensive regulations governing the healthcare industry.

Based in Houston, PreCheck is a six-time Inc. 5000 honoree and has achieved Background Screening Credentialing Council Accreditation by the Professional Background Screening Association (PBSA).

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