

Talking Points: Immunization Registry Data Review/Entry Requirement (aka “the ImmPRINT bill”)

This updated law would mandate providers to submit all vaccine data to the ImmPRINT immunization registry, instead of just authorizing and encouraging them to report. The proposal will reduce the chances of over- and under- vaccinated people, which will reduce the risk of acquiring a vaccine-preventable disease.

Why is this bill necessary?

- To ensure each person, regardless of age, in Alabama is given the right vaccine at the right time to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The bill would require all public and private providers, including pharmacists, who vaccinate any patients of any age to review the statewide life span immunization registry, Immunization Patient Registry with Internet Technology (ImmPRINT), before administering a vaccine. The only exception to this requirement is before administering the flu vaccine.
- All providers would be required to enter all vaccines administered and any historical data, through electronic interface or manually, into the registry.

Background

- The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has operated ImmPRINT since 2000 and collects data from physicians and other vaccine providers on immunizations administered in our state. Electronic immunizations registries are operated by the public health agencies of all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and several of America's largest cities in support of their missions to protect the health and safety of the public against infectious diseases.
- This information is used by ADPH to generate a Certificate of Immunization that allows children to enroll into their local school systems.
- ImmPRINT data is also used by ADPH to understand our state's vulnerability to infectious diseases and to make well-informed decisions on Alabama's readiness in event of a disease outbreak. While almost all providers already enter this information voluntarily into ImmPRINT, some do not, and so HB 103 will ensure that Alabama has a complete registry of immunizations.
- A person would still be free to opt out of receiving a vaccine if he or she chooses. Medical or religious exemptions to vaccination are allowed under Alabama law, and HB 103 does not affect this in any way.
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Medicaid, and United use the registry for their annual HEDIS measures, and Blue Cross and Medicaid use it to evaluate providers on their performance.

What the ImmPRINT bill would mean for pediatric care:

- Because the Alabama Department of Public Health is allowing a limited number of pharmacies in the state, as well as school-based clinics, to provide adolescent vaccines under the VFC program, it is CRITICAL that they are required to enter vaccines into the registry so that the medical home is kept informed of any encounters the patient receives outside of the medical home.
- Requiring all vaccinating providers to enter immunizations will prevent children from receiving unnecessary doses of vaccines, since a provider who is unable to determine that a child has been previously immunized may administer additional doses of a vaccine that is unnecessary.
- Pediatric care will be better coordinated with seamless lines of communication between the medical home and other providers.