



- ✓ Does your practice already process and store health records/immunization data in an **Electronic Medical Records (EMR)** system?
- ✓ Do you prefer to keep using your EMR to track immunization records but also want to participate in the statewide immunization registry, **I-CARE**?
- ✓ Do you want your EMR system to integrate immunization information with **I-CARE**?

The **Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE)** is a web-based immunization registry system provided free of charge by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The registry provides a centralized statewide database for vaccine records and allows providers to easily retrieve and print school and day-care physical reports. The I-CARE system runs reports generating reminder/recall letters for patients who have missed immunizations and can track your vaccine inventory.

In an effort to allow **EMRs** to exchange data with other systems such as **I-CARE**, a standard was implemented to exchange data between incompatible systems. This international standard for exchanging health information is called **Health Level Seven (HL7)**.

IDPH is implementing a HL7 data exchange between I-CARE and immunization providers in two phases:

**Phase 1:** A one-way data transfer of unsolicited vaccine record updates to the statewide registry that will allow immunization providers using their own EMR system to send data to I-CARE. *Currently in-progress.*

**Phase 2:** A two-way data transfer of vaccine record queries and responses that will allow immunization providers using their own EMR system to query I-CARE for a patient's immunization records (not found in their own EMR system) and I-CARE will send the patient's immunization information back. *(Phase 2 is expected to be completed in spring 2011)*



**How can my practice take part in the I-CARE and EMR compatibility process?**

**Step 1:** Contact your EMR vendor to purchase the Immunization Module for your EMR system if you do not already have an Immunization Module

**Step 2:** Supply your EMR vendor with I-CARE compatibility specifications for your current EMR system. Download this EMR/I-CARE specifications document at <http://illinoisap.org/wp-content/uploads/HL7-Compatibility.pdf>

**Step 3:** Collaborate with IDPH to ensure full compatibility.

For I-CARE/HL7 technical questions:  
Igor Slobodyanyuk, IDPH Information Systems Analyst  
[Igor.Slobodyanyuk@illinois.gov](mailto:Igor.Slobodyanyuk@illinois.gov) 217/557-0029

For general I-CARE/ HL7/EMR questions:  
Robin Holding, IDPH I-CARE Project Manager  
[Robin.Holding@illinois.gov](mailto:Robin.Holding@illinois.gov) 217/557-0021

