

# Bidirectional Immunization Data Exchange

## Available Resources

Maryland's Immunization Information System, ImmuNet, is a secure database that stores immunization records. This web-based tool is available for health care providers to ensure their patients are vaccinated on time and are fully aware of their immunization status. It also promotes accurate record keeping and supports providers to avoid under or over immunizing, to control cost, reduce waste, and improve patient safety. In addition, ImmuNet supports bidirectional data exchange through the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP).

CRISP serves as a regional health information exchange (HIE) for Maryland, District of Columbia and West Virginia. CRISP offers a suite of tools aimed at improving the facilitation of patient care for the region's providers.

Utilizing both resources, providers have the opportunity to access a functional bidirectional communication and data exchange platform for their patients. This platform allows providers to exchange immunization data directly between their own EHR system and ImmuNet.

## Benefits for utilizing bidirectional data exchange with ImmuNet via CRISP:

### Population Health improvements:

- Improves health care delivery to patients by utilizing the reminder recall system
- Allows for easier identification of high risk and under-immunized populations
- Improves patient safety by avoiding over or under immunizing

### Promotes cost-effective and efficient disease prevention:

- Helps to reduce provider burden by allowing providers to electronically submit vaccination data and avoid manual data entry
- Assists in vaccine management and prevents costly vaccine waste by avoiding unnecessary duplicate doses
- Facilitates more accurate record keeping

### Increases provider access to patient and population data:

- Offers real time up-to-date patient data
- Provides easy access to patient's consolidated history of immunizations received from multiple healthcare providers

### Supports reporting requirements and quality improvement measures for the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)

## Getting Started

### Step 1 - Enroll/register with ImmuNet

- Complete the enrollment form at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/IMMUN/Pages/immunet-for-health-care-providers.aspx> and submit to the Maryland Department of Health.
- Once your form is received, you should expect to receive your login credentials within 3-5 business days.
- Work with your EHR vendor and the ImmuNet Help Desk to ensure proper set up for reporting.
- User guides and training videos available to reference.

### Step 2 - Onboard to CRISP Immunizations service

- Contact CRISP support at [support@crisphealth.org](mailto:support@crisphealth.org) or 1-877-952-7477 and complete registration to become a CRISP Participant. There is no additional registration process.
- Data exchange is open to all providers and practices that submit data to ImmuNet; however, successful implementation depends on the EHR capability/functionality. You will need to collaborate with your vendor.
- Once the onboarding steps are complete, the bidirectional exchange with ImmuNet is established. CRISP maintains the connection to ImmuNet that is used for all new implementations.

### Step 3 - Access data using bidirectional exchange

- First: Query ImmuNet for immunization history for a single patient.
- Queries for immunization records occur by providing patient demographics, which is done on a 3-tier matching algorithm.
  - Tier 1 Primary: First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Date of Birth
  - Tier 2 Secondary: Mother's Maiden Name
  - Tier 3 Tertiary: Address and Phone
- Second: Receive immunization data for the patient.
- The data is imported back into your EHR, though where exactly in the EHR depends on the vendor.
- For some EHRs patient queries are automated based on a patient status (appointment made, patient arrived, etc.). Other EHRs require a manual query.
- Once the query is complete, immunization history information populates in the patient's record.
- That workflow happens in a matter of seconds.

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