



March 20, 2009

Dear Colleague:

The American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA), in partnership with the CDC, has an important initiative directed at immunization information system operations. A Modeling of Immunization Registry Operations Workgroup (MIROW) has led a collaborative process to develop consensus-based guidelines to improve and standardize registry operations. The goal of this effort is to produce the “how to” for operationalizing registry functionality based on your best practices. The types of issues to examine are ones that involve a good mix of process, timeline, and rule constraints. Subject matter experts (SMEs) in IIS operations participate in preparing these guidelines. “How to” guides for several topics have already been developed: MOGE and other patient status designations, reminder/recall, vaccine level deduplication, and data quality assessment of incoming data. These chapters can be found on the AIRA web site at <http://www.immregistries.org/pubs/mirow.phtml>

We invite you to submit your additional operational ideas and SME recommendations for consideration by going to the AIRA web site link noted below. Your responses will be categorized and prioritized by the MIROW Steering Committee (SC). The MIROW SC will then plan a series of structured/facilitated meetings where the operations topics will be analyzed by the SMEs with the goal of creating a “best or pretty good practice guideline” chapters for each operations topic area selected. We believe that the development of IIS “Best Practice” Guidelines will benefit immunization registries by documenting common practices, promoting consistency of IIS operations, thus improving overall data quality and providing better functionality and utility to programmatic, clinical and other customers. They will also serve as a technology-neutral baseline for information technology developments, and foster collaboration and communication among IIS professionals.

Please take a few minutes now to complete the online assessment by clicking on the following link. Responses to this survey are due by April 20, 2009.
<http://www.immregistries.org/airaSurvey/index.php?sid=6>

Your participation will help improve overall use and functionality of IIS as the premier tool for improving and maintaining high immunization status and contributing to the regional and national health information infrastructure. Please pass this announcement to other operational experts, registry managers, program managers and others involved in your program who can contribute to this effort.

Please feel free to contact Elaine Lowery (elaine.lowery@comcast.net) or Warren Williams (wxx4@cdc.gov / 404-639-8867) should you have any questions. We look forward to your assistance in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry Riddick", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sherry Riddick
AIRA President