

Patient Consent

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Version 21.0

Permission to Submit Vaccine Information to Local Immunization Registry

On the **Demographics > Privacy/Sharing** tab in a patient's chart there is a drop-down menu. The default Consent Status is set to "Not Documented"



Note: It is the practice's responsibility to know if their Registry is OPT-IN, OPT-ALL, or OPT-OUT.

- **Registry is OPT-IN:** This means that the registry will only accept vaccine data for patients who have a "Documented Consent". If the dropdown is set to "Not Documented," this patient's immunization data will not be sent to the registry.
- **Registry is OPT-ALL:** This means that the registry requires all patients to be transmitted. The patient data will get sent to the registry regardless of their selection.
- **Registry is OPT-OUT:** This means that the registry expects all patients who didn't explicitly refuse to have their vaccine data shared.



Note: Registry can be OPT-IN, OPT-OUT, or OPT-ALL for different patient age brackets, or different time periods.

Patient Rights regarding Immunization Registries

Every state or locale has its own patient privacy laws; registries dictate what an EHR vendor must support. For more detailed questions please contact your registry.

The three categories are as follows:

1. **OPT-IN:** If a locale is opt-in it means the patient must have explicitly provided consent to either the provider or the registry to have their vaccination records shared with the registry and/or other outside entities. Should the provider fail to inquire, or the parent fails to submit any documentation the default behavior is for the patient's records to NOT be shared.
2. **OPT-OUT:** This is the most common option. This is very similar to OPT-IN with one key difference. If provider fails to inquire about the patient's willingness to share records or the parent fails to submit paper work then the patient's records WILL BE shared. The patient does have the right not to share their records but they must explicitly request to do so.
3. **OPT-ALL:** This is the most relaxed option. The patient does not have the right to prevent their records from being shared.

Patient Consent in Office Practicum

Providers should be marking the patient's privacy preference down in Office Practicum on the **Demographics > Privacy/Sharing**.

It is important to treat this field simply as a "preference" as it is not the *de facto* documentation that says "I DO NOT WANT AND YOU AGREE NOT TO SHARE MY RECORDS". Most registries have paperwork that needs to be filed by either the parent or the provider in order to effectively "OPT-OUT" of data sharing. It is very important to note that the "Unanswered = Not asked / don't know; use registry default" is the default value for all patients and the "registry default" will mean the patient's vaccination records will be blocked from ever going to the registry if the registry is OPT-IN.

Privacy/Data Sharing
Save Cancel

Overall chart visibility: Any staff member

Social Security Number:

Contact constraints:
 Did not ask
 No restrictions expressed; OK to leave messages/send mail
 Restricted: Person-to-person with patient/guardian only
 Restricted: See note below

Privacy notes:

Documented consent of submission to third party:

Third Party	Consent Status	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Additional Notes
New York State IIS Version 3	Not Documented			
Nevada IIS 2.5.1	Documented Consent			
FLSHOTSBI/Directional	Documented Refusal			
Kno2 Carequality	Not Documented			

Immunization Registry reminder / recall preference:

Immunization Registry	Reminder / Recall Preference
New York State IIS Version 3	
Nevada IIS 2.5.1	
MTIMMREG	

My state is OPT-ALL, so why should I care about setting this flag at all?

This is a valid question that is difficult to answer. Most states that are OPT-ALL or OPT-OUT are not likely to change their policies. However, should the local government entity decide to impose more strict data sharing requirements on providers by switching from OPT-ALL to OPT-OUT/OPT-IN, then all of a sudden none of the provider's patient vaccination records are eligible for transmission. If the provider receives documentation of the patients willingness or unwillingness to submit to the registry they should always set this flag. This check-box ultimately gets mapped to the Patient's Protection Indicator within the registry. The Protection Indicator may mean different things to different registries. To some it may mean the registry is allowed to have it but outside entities are not, to others it means the registry should not load the vaccination data into the registry.