

# Recording influenza vaccinations on the National Immunisation Register

The National Immunisation Register (NIR) is a national database, held by the Ministry of Health. The NIR records immunisations given to New Zealand children and for other National Immunisation Schedule vaccines, including for influenza and pregnant women. The Ministry uses the NIR to help assess the protection against influenza, monitor vaccine coverage and plan future population health programmes.

## The following points are useful for informing your patients about the NIR

- The NIR provides an accurate record of a person's immunisation history, to help with their ongoing health care even if they change doctors, and to help the Ministry measure immunisation coverage across the whole population
- The NIR records a person's NHI, name, gender, address, date of birth, and immunisation information
- Only authorised professionals will see, use or change the information
- Information that does not identify individuals may be used for research or planning

The NIR resource leaflet (HE2423) informs adults about the NIR. Leaflet pads can be ordered from [www.healthed.govt.nz](http://www.healthed.govt.nz).

An influenza coverage report is available for providers including general practice with access to the Business Objects NIR Datamart. The report provides information by district health board, Primary Health Organisation, Ethnicity and Deprivation.

## Recording adult influenza vaccine on the NIR in:

### General Practice

The NIR and Practice Management Systems (PMS) record the influenza vaccine information given in general practice for all age groups and for pregnant women. To record an adult's influenza vaccine information on the NIR select the opt-on button on your PMS.

To help avoid errors in recording influenza on the NIR:

- Ensure you have the most up to date PMS software version
- Send a list of all the vaccinators and GPs who will deliver the influenza vaccine in your practice to your local district health board NIR administrator before the beginning of the influenza season to ensure they are entered into the system

- Vaccinators should validate patients' addresses in all address fields before they are messaged to the NIR
- The provider should be noted as the "GP" and the nurse the "vaccinator"
- For adults wanting to opt off the recording of their influenza vaccination on the NIR please leave the opt-on/off fields blank. The immunisation information will only be recorded on your PMS and will not be sent to the NIR

Note: the NIR influenza programme does not schedule vaccinations as it does for the childhood vaccines.

### Pharmacy

From 2017, the NIR web browser called Immunise Now will be used by pharmacist vaccinators to send influenza vaccine messages to the NIR.

Pharmacist vaccinators are still required to notify an individual's GP when they have administered an influenza vaccine to their patient so their records can be updated. It is planned for this process to be fully automated in the future.

### Other influenza vaccination settings

The Ministry is working towards expanding access to 'Immunise Now' in the future for other influenza vaccination settings such as district health board clinics or workplaces.

Occupational health providers are also expected to notify an individual's general practice when they have administered an influenza vaccine so their records can be updated

### For questions about:

- The NIR please contact your local district health board NIR administrator or contact the Ministry of Health Support team 0800 505 125 and select option 3
- Immunise Now contact the Ministry of Health Support Team (details above)
- Your general practice or pharmacy PMS, please contact your vendor directly.