



**Memo: All Illinois Health Connect PCPs**  
**From: Cari VonderHaar, RN, IHC Quality Assurance Manager**  
**Date: 2-10-10**  
**Re: I-CARE and Immunization Data**

I-CARE, or Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange is an immunization record-sharing computer program developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The program allows public and private health care providers to share the immunization records of Illinois residents. Currently, the program contains more than 37 million immunization records. For additional information about I-CARE, please check the IDPH web site at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/vaccine/icarefs.html>.

Recently, IDPH began sharing I-CARE and Cornerstone immunization record data directly with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). In turn, these data are provided by HFS to Illinois Health Connect (IHC). The Cornerstone data includes public health department immunization data and GLOBAL (Chicago Department of Public Health) data.

Immunization records that have been recorded in I-CARE and Cornerstone for services provided in 2009 will qualify for the 2009 IHC Bonus Payment Program for High Performance. Children receiving complete immunizations as recommended by the ACIP by age 2 years is one of the five measures eligible for bonus payments. HFS uses claims data to determine whether a service was rendered and the bonus benchmark achieved. Bonus payments will be a minimum of \$20 per qualifying patient for care provided in 2009.

Reporting immunization records through I-CARE and Cornerstone will allow HFS, and subsequently, IHC, to recognize immunizations where a claim might not have been received by HFS. Examples include immunizations received through a free clinic, through private insurance before the child became enrolled in HFS, or improperly billed. In order to qualify for the 2009 bonus payments, records must be entered by March 31, 2010. For additional information about the IHC Bonus Payment program, please check the IHC website at [www.illinoishealthconnect.com](http://www.illinoishealthconnect.com) under Quality Tools.

You may also contact your IHC Quality Assurance Nurse for assistance regarding the Bonus Payment program or other Quality Tools. The IHC QA Nurses can provide education to your office on clinical guidelines, Provider Profile data, and additional resources for immunization and other patient care services. Please contact the IHC Provider Helpdesk at 877.912.1999 to schedule a visit to your office from the IHC QA Nurse.