

Answers to Questions About the New Opt-out Process for IRIS

December 2013

Q. I heard there are now two options for a patient who wants to opt-out of IRIS; what are they?

A. You heard right, there are two opt-out options for having information removed from IRIS. Whichever option they choose, patients must still request to opt-out through the Idaho Immunization Program. The two options are:

Option 1: Patients may opt-out of IRIS and choose to have **only their immunization information removed** from the system; the system keeps enough non-medical information (name, address, phone number, mother's maiden name, date of birth and gender) to allow it to match incoming data attempts. With this option, nothing will change from the way opt-outs has worked in the past. If you try to enter immunization data, or if your EMR attempts to electronically export immunization data for the opted-out patient, IRIS will refuse the data.

Option 2: Patients may opt-out of IRIS and choose to have **all their information removed** from the system. With this option it is the patient's responsibility to inform his/her medical providers that s/he has opted-out of IRIS and to work with you to ensure their information is not re-entered. Since IRIS will contain no information on the people who opt-out under this option, it will not be able to notify you of the opt-out or block data that is input either manually or through electronic data exchange.

Q. Why are there now two options for opting-out of IRIS?

A. Legal counsel has determined that the new opt-out option (Option 2), *must* be offered to IRIS participants in order to meet the requirements of Idaho law 39-4803(4)(a), 39-4804(2)(b) and 39-4804(3)(b).

Q. One of my patients told me her child is opted-out of IRIS, should I confirm this by looking in IRIS?

A. You may. If a parent says that they and/or their child have opted-out of IRIS, you are not required to check in IRIS to see if this is true. However, there are people who *think* they are not in IRIS, but in fact are. The only way to opt-out of IRIS is to submit a request to the state (online or in writing) asking to have the record deleted. You may consider trying to look up the child in IRIS, and if you do find him/her in the system you can advise the family on the opt-out procedure.

Q. I administered a dose of state-supplied vaccine to a person who has opted-out of IRIS, how do I account for that vaccine dose?

A. All doses of state-supplied vaccine must be accounted for in IRIS. When a patient receives state-supplied vaccine but does not want to participate in IRIS, the patient is not entered into IRIS; however, the doses administered are entered into IRIS. Instructions for entering an anonymous dose of vaccine into IRIS are attached to this FAQ.

Q. A parent asked me to opt their child out of IRIS without submitting a request to the state program, is this possible?

A. No. Only state staff can delete an immunization record completely from IRIS. Until the state program receives a formal request, either through the online form or in writing, the patient's information will remain in IRIS.

Q. My practice's EHR/EMR does not have the option of excluding one patient's record when I electronically export data to IRIS. How do I stop that patient's information from being re-entered into IRIS from my electronic export for a patient who has chosen to have *all* information removed from IRIS?

A. This is a difficult problem for which there is no easy answer. Some options, none of them ideal, are:

1. Do not enter that patient's immunizations into the regular immunization section your EHR/EMR, but keep them in a notes field that does not export to IRIS;
2. Advise the patient that s/he must seek immunizations elsewhere. If this extreme option is chosen, you may consider advising patients that you can continue to provide immunization services if they chose opt-out option #1 where their demographic, non-medical information is retained in IRIS so IRIS can block their medical information from re-entering the system during electronic export;
3. Stop electronic exports from your EHR/EMR to IRIS, and return to manual data entry into IRIS for state-supplied vaccines;
4. Contact your EHR/EMR vendor to see if they have an upgrade option that will allow your system to block data exchange on a patient by patient basis.

Q. One of my patients opted-out of IRIS using Option 1 where they allow demographic, non-medical information to be retained in the system. What impact does this opt-out have on my practice?

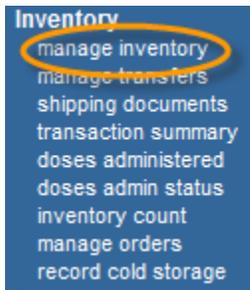
A. None. If you manually enter vaccine information into IRIS, you will see an alert notifying you that this patient has opted-out of IRIS and you need to enter that dose as anonymous. If you electronically export data from your EMR to IRIS, IRIS will automatically reject incoming vaccine information for anyone who has opted-out using Option 1.

Q. One of my patients informed me that he had opted-out of IRIS and that I should not re-enter his information, should I document this in the patient's chart?

A. This is a decision that must be made by your practice, but it's recommended that you document the patient's request. This documentation may serve as liability protection to your practice, a reminder to staff, and as an indication to new staff after a staff change-over.

Instructions for entering an anonymous vaccine dose into IRIS

1) After logging into IRIS click on *manage inventory*, under the Inventory section.



2) The Manage Inventory screen will display. Click the *Show Inventory* button.



3) Select the vaccine lot number administered to the patient.

Select	Trade Name	Lot Number	Inv On Hand	Active	Public	Exp Date
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adacel	9562AD	28	Y	Y	04/01/2014

4) Click the *Modify Quantity* button.



4) In the Manage Inventory screen 1) under *Action* select **Subtract**, 2) under *Amount* enter the number 1 (for the dose administered), 3) under *Reason* select **Anonymous Dose** and 4) click *Save*.

Manage Inventory

Save Changes to Quantity On Hand for Selected Sites.... 4 **Save**

Return to the Previous Screen.... Cancel

Modify Quantity On Hand for Selected Site(s)

Trade Name	Lot Number	Inv On Hand	Action	Amount	Reason
Adacel	9562AD	28	1 Subtract	2 1	3 Anonymous Dose