Kris Ball, RN, PHN is office manager for two rural family practice clinics on the campus of Plumas District Hospital in Quincy, California, where about 20 patients receive immunizations on a weekly basis at each clinic site.

A graduate of Cal State University at Chico’s nursing program, Kris is happy to be known as an immunization registry champion. “When I first heard about the registry, I was excited about how it could help us.” When asked what she likes best, “Simplicity,” smiles Kris. “It’s made our clinic staff more efficient. And I really like all the online resources like links to VIS and CDC’s Pink Book.”

Before using the registry, Kris admitted that they sometimes missed opportunities to vaccinate. She explained that it’s a common problem for kids to get extra doses of vaccines—just because the former providers can’t be reached to verify the complete immunization history.

“Now it only takes me a few minutes to create a new patient record [in the registry] and enter vaccine information; updating an existing record is even easier! ” Kris also likes being able to print out the patient’s yellow card, or the blue card for schools. “We couldn’t do that before using the registry.”

Asked if she would ever go back to an office without the registry, Kris shook her head: “No! If I ever had to go work for an office without a registry, getting them to join would be my Number One agenda item!”

Kris has been a terrific advocate for the registry and will gladly speak to others about her experience. She’s happy to spread the word to other clinics. And we’re just as happy to introduce her as a registry champion!

Contact Kris at: kball@pdh.org or (530) 283-7173.