Baltazar Hernandez
Clínica Médica Centra
San Diego, CA

San Diego’s Baltazar Hernandez, from Clínica Médica Central, was recognized for exceeding 90% 4:3:1* coverage for children 19-36 months of age. This busy practice in a diverse community has also been designated as one of the County’s Immunization Coalition Champions.

Mr. Hernandez says his clinic receives up to 25 pediatric patients a day. This can double during the back-to-school rush. As a registry “super-user,” Mr. Hernandez says it takes only two minutes to enter a patient’s data into the registry, including coordination of the patient’s return date with the clinician’s schedule for the next month. Since Mr. Hernandez began using the registry he has seen the clinic immunization rates increase and office flow improve.

“We can immediately find the patient immunization record in the registry, which allows my staff to make quick and accurate clinical assessments. Using the registry improves office efficiency so that we can better accommodate walk-in patients.”

Mr. Hernandez reports that it was easy for him to learn how to use the registry. “After my 2-hour training, I was very comfortable with using the system and have not had any problems or questions. We get great support and it’s a simple system.”

Mr. Hernandez finds many reasons to praise the registry. In particular, it:

• Assists in scheduling both patients and providers/nursing staff based on the return date
• Increases the ability to accept walk-ins on light days
• Increases financial flow. The registry’s return date for CHDP visits help us schedule more clinicians when extra patients are expected
• Reduces the need to assess records us via the vaccine forecast and validation module
• Allows assessment of vaccine inventory to develop orders for the next month

Mr. Hernandez has also been able to do things he couldn’t before, such as:

• Eliminate the hand-completed CIR forms
• Know which shots are valid and invalid, and see clinical trends
• Review patients to be contacted on the reminder recall report and delay their return if a vaccine is not available
• Enhance patient record such as whether the phone number is for an office or home

Mr. Hernandez reports he “cannot imagine doing my job without the registry. I have even had staff call me from other provider offices who are closing or being laid off and want to know if we had an opening because they enjoy working at sites with the registry; it made their job easier. I would be glad to speak with prospective registry users about using the registry. I love to help other providers see the benefits of the registry.”

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San Diego Regional Immunization Registry
(619) 692-5656
www.immunization-sd.org/sdir