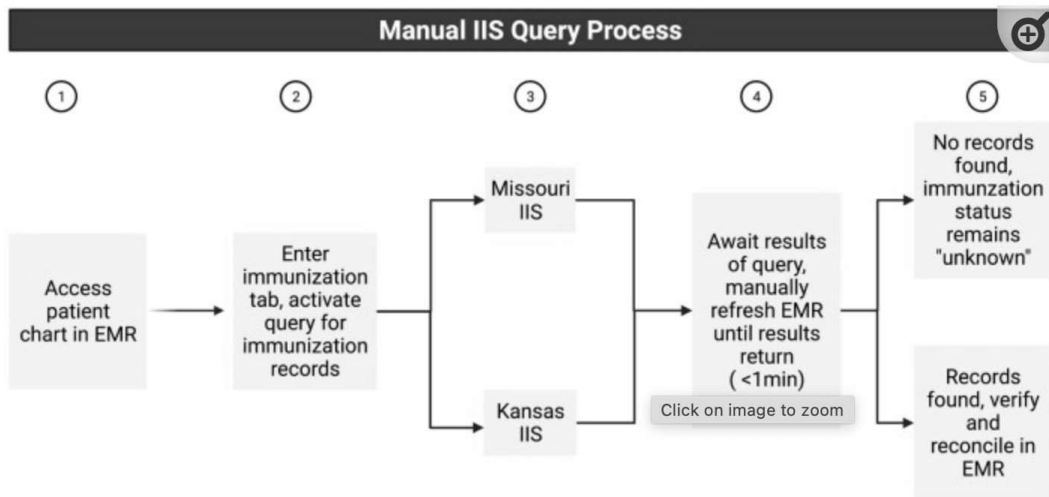# Bi-Directional HL7 Exchange: What is it and How do I Use it?

A bi-directional exchange is an interface that enables 2 or more different entities to interact. Basically it allows the transfer of messages in 2 directions. Not only is your clinic/site able to send data to I-CARE, it can actually query I-CARE and receive vaccination data that is already in I-CARE from another provider or site. By using this function, you will have the best, most recent and complete vaccination data for your patient. By utilizing this function, we can decrease our need to report historical or reported vaccination data that is not complete and may be missing vital information.

Figure 1.

Manual IIS Query Process

1. Access patient chart in EMR
2. Enter immunization tab, activate query for immunization records
3. Missouri IIS / Kansas IIS
4. Await results of query, manually refresh EMR until results return (<1min)
5. No records found, immunzation status remains "unknown" / Records found, verify and reconcile in EMR

Click on image to zoom

Process for a manual query of the Immunization Information System from the electronic health record.

Historical and Reported Dose Reporting

- Providers should ONLY accept written, dated records as evidence of vaccination.

- Providers with a bi-directional data exchange, should query I-CARE for any missing vaccines.

- If no results are available, patients without written and dated documentation should be considered susceptible and started on the age-appropriate vaccination schedule.

- Serologic testing for immunity is an alternative to vaccination for certain antigens such as Measles, Rubella or Hepatitis A

CDPH
Chicago Department of Public Health