State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

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TO: EHR vendors serving California providers

FROM: Robert Schechter, M.D., Immunization Branch Chief
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control

SUBJECT: **Update EHR Immunization Fields: Support Providers to Comply with New Requirement**

**Dear EHR Vendor,**

AB 1797, a new California law, now requires providers enter in a California immunization registry (CAIR OR Healthy Futures/RIDE):

- Records on immunizations they administer
- Race and ethnicity of immunized patients
- Tuberculosis (TB) testing results

To support these requirements, please update your EHR as follows:

**1. HL7 code for Race and Ethnicity Fields**

If a patient declines to state race and/or ethnicity, CAIR2 is adding a new category of "Prefer not to say" to the CAIR2 user interface and via HL7. **Please update the race and ethnicity fields using this HL7 code to include "Prefer not to say" as a category.**

**2. TB Testing Results**

Please update your EHR fields to collect any TB results (including IGRA test results) and enable results to be submitted.

**3. Cell Phone Numbers**

Please make sure EHR fields specify cell phone number when collecting patient phone numbers. Capturing cell phone numbers may enable reminder/recall immunization notices, access to digital vaccine records through the portal and other public health measures.

For more information, see the California Department of Public Health's AB 1797 Immunization Registry FAQs.

Thank you in advance for making these changes to your EHR.

Of note, the California Department of Public Health is making grants available to Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers only who are not yet enrolled to become COVID-19 vaccine providers. The grant also provides additional funds to help these providers cover any costs associated with connecting their EHR with CAIR. More details are available on the Physicians for a Healthy California website.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions at cairdataexchange@cdph.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Schechter, M.D.