

EHR/IIS Data Exchange Basics

This document includes answers to questions asked during the EHR/IIS Data Exchange Basics webinar.

Question 1: What is the difference between unidirectional and bidirectional data exchange?

Unidirectional data exchange means data is only shared in one direction - from an electronic health record (EHR) to the IIS. With bidirectional data exchange, information can be sent from an EHR to the IIS and from the IIS to an EHR. Bidirectional data exchange allows an organization's EHR to query the IIS for any matching patients and import the patient's immunization history from the IIS into their EHR.

Question 2: With a unidirectional interface, would an organization have to take information from the IIS and enter it in their EHR?

With a unidirectional interface, most clinics are not able to import immunizations from the IIS into their EHR. So, if the IIS has a more complete record for a patient, the clinic may want to enter any missing immunizations into their EHR.

Question 3: How long does it take to de-duplicate records?

IIS deduplication is a process that runs automatically each night. If this process identifies two records that are possibly the same patient, the record goes into a manual review queue. It may take about 24-48 hours for the record to go through the entire deduplication process and for vaccines to appear on the patient's record in the IIS.

Question 4: About how many providers have a bidirectional interface?

About 40% of all interfaces are bidirectional and several more organizations are currently testing their ability to query. The Health Information Exchange (HIE), which is the preferred method for data exchange with the IIS, supports bidirectional interfaces.

Question 5: Where I can direct clinics for IIS training on running coverage reports or other topics.

Clinics can request IIS training by emailing IIS.Training@doh.wa.gov.