

What Is FamilyNet?

Overview: Oregon developed FamilyNet with the goals of consolidating individual health information with public health program data. Currently, the system integrates data from two programs--Immunization and WIC.

How does it work? In FamilyNet, each client has a single file in a central database. This record contains the client's computer generated ID number and basic demographic data (name, address, etc). The program modules are linked to each other through the central database via the client's ID. However, each module remains separate and adaptable to the program's needs.

What are the benefits? Since FamilyNet launched, client care is more coordinated. Local health department providers are benefiting from fewer duplicative data entries, greater ease of use, and greater connectivity.

What's next for FamilyNet? In the future, four more programs will be added onto FamilyNet. They are: Babies First!, CaCoon, Oregon MothersCare, and Maternity Case Management.

How will this affect Babies First! and CaCoon? If you are involved in Babies First! or CaCoon, then the current data entry system, WCHDS, will be replaced by a more user-friendly program called Minimum Data Entry (MDE).

How will this affect Oregon MothersCare and Maternity Case Management? For these two programs, your clients will also be entered into Minimum Data Entry (MDE.) MDE would eliminate sending in paper reports for Oregon MothersCare or Maternity Case Management. Your supervisors will be contacted by state staff in Summer 2006 to describe what these changes mean.

An Intro to... Minimum Data Entry

Minimum Data Entry (MDE) is the name of the computer program that will be used to collect client information for Babies First!, CaCoon, Oregon MothersCare, and Maternity Case Management. MDE will be replacing the existing WCHDS system that is used with Babies First! and CaCoon. MDE will also be used to replace the existing Oregon Mothers Care and Maternity Case Management databases.

Currently, MDE is scheduled

to begin rollout in early 2007. Your supervisors will be contacted by state staff in Summer 2006 to explain to them more details about MDE.

Compared to WCHDS, MDE will be more user-friendly and, visually, it will look similar to a webpage.

We would like to pilot the system at County agencies. If you are willing to participate in a pilot, please contact us.

SUMMARY OF THE PAST YEAR...

FamilyNet has progressed on several fronts this past year. FamilyNet has been working with WIC to update WIC's computer system, called TWIST (The WIC Information System Tracker.) Previously, WIC food instruments (food vouchers) in Oregon were printed in a central location and then mailed to participants. Now, TWIST allows local agencies to print out instruments on-site, allowing their clients to receive their food instruments more quickly and also to receive valuable nutrition education at the same time.

In other projects, FamilyNet has upgraded software used by Immunization and WIC to provide greater reliability and support. These software upgrades also reduce county IT costs by simplifying the infrastructure used by these systems.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

We'd like to hear from you...please email us or drop us a line:

Elvin Yuen, MPH
Training and Communications
Coordinator
(971) 673-0244
elvin.yuen@state.or.us

... Or contact your regional nurse consultant.