

Jan/Feb  
2012

# A LOCH @ NESIIS



## Tech Tips

This month's tip relates to **Ad Hoc Reporting**.

Ad Hoc reporting is a little tricky due to the way query languages work. When you add in the Filters you want, the query on the back end will run them exactly as they are shown, no grouping.

So if you add three conditions and you need all three to be true, you have to Group the conditions together.

You do this by holding down your Ctrl key while clicking each condition that belongs together, then clicking the Group button on the right.

So the big tip for this issue is: **Group it to make it work!**

E-mail Scott if you are unsure and need a screen shot created to help.

Questions? Help Desk info, page 3!

Department of Health & Human Services

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## 2012 Plans Readied

### Things We Know We Know

**The year 2012** will be the time when we finally get to implement our **new scheduling wizard**. Wizard? Well, that's just the fancy name we call the programming that works with the immunizations you enter into NESIIS. In simple terms, it takes what it sees and creates immunization recommendations based on that information.

The programming and testing process for this is expected to take six months or so, and cannot begin until at least March, possibly later. We're excited, as this will allow us to finally assure NESIIS can handle the complexity required within so many vaccine schedules and make recommendations that should always be appropriate.

**New servers** will be installed over the next few months, and these will increase system stability. The new machines are robust, having more memory and processing capability, big keys now that we are doing more data exchange than ever with facilities. Larger storage space will also accommodate the amount of data we store, which grows monthly.

**Enhancing data exchange** is something we continue to focus on very heavily and will even more in 2012. Changes we have planned including adding in the option for vendors/facilities to share data with us in **HL7 2.5.1** format. We already accept data in HL7 2.3.1, so adding in this new version will mean we are meeting both options specified by Meaningful Use objectives.

Adding an **additional secure messaging solution** is also high on our priority list. At the moment, facilities hoping to share data with us are limited to one method of getting that data to us securely. During 2012, we will implement an additional solution that will be much more flexible and should meet methods generally already built into existing vendor EHR/EMR applications.

### Enhancements Are Coming, Too

But the NESIIS world is about more than just data exchange, processing power and the new scheduling wizard, although each of those are big projects that will provide overall system enhancement.

**Reports** are set to finally receive some long-awaited improvements this year as we gain traction on vaccine schedules.

Though all plans are not yet finalized, we do have specific intent to make some tweaks to formatting of quite a few reports specific to data display. We need to take a look at which columns are displaying, the width of those columns, and perhaps also tweak the font sizes to be able to include more information on some reports.

We also have plans to add **more Filter options in the Ad Hoc reports** so that more of the fields users enter into records are reportable. This should create more flexibility for pulling data for either report. If you have suggestions for data to display in any of the canned reports (i.e. Transaction Summary, VFC, Complete Immunization, etc.), please e-mail Scott so they can be given consideration.

Another plan for reporting is to provide you with the **ability to save an Ad Hoc report template** you just created. For example, if you asked for certain fields to be displayed and used specific filter options you think you'd be likely to use again, an option to save this set of parameters will exist. The next time you wanted to run the same report, you could click the saved query, update requested information (such as vaccination date range), and run it without having to go through the normal Ad Hoc report process, which can be pretty long.

Finally, we will be adding in the option to **track NDC codes** on all items stored in inventory. This will impact reporting and data exchange, but should be done before the end of the second quarter of 2012.



## Data Exchange Successes!!

These providers started sharing data with us electronically since September began:

Broken Bow Clinic, PC

Diabetes & Endocrine Assoc. - Omaha

Family Medical Center – Hastings

Family Practice Associates - Kearney

Grand Island Clinic

McCook Clinic

Nebraska Methodist Health System – Omaha

Omaha Internal Medicine

York Medical Clinic

NeHII Elysium Users

Congratulations!!!

Department of Health & Human Services



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## HIPAA

### Privacy Reminder

We often receive e-mail requests to either merge clients or perhaps look up a client in NESIIS for looking into a question regarding history.

HIPAA requires us to maintain the privacy of identifiable information. Too often e-mails show a full date of birth or an SSN. Please do not e-mail this data unless you have a secure e-mail option.

To assist, we will be adding the NESIIS client ID to pages so you can ask for help yet send only that ID. An e-mail blast will provide details once it has been implemented into NESIIS.

## 2011 Data

Clients/ Patients	Immuniz ations	Date
988,638	6,979,472	01/18/2011
993,694	7,040,139	02/14/2011
999,353	7,101,574	03/14/2011
1,005,232	7,179,940	04/15/2011
1,012,115	7,275,827	05/16/2011
1,016,374	7,344,489	06/14/2011
1,022,534	7,430,478	07/18/2011
1,032,743	7,633,827	08/17/2011
1,039,621	7,742,577	09/15/2011
1,052,031	7,868,328	10/20/2011
1,064,137	7,953,664	11/14/2011
1,087,442	8,107,327	12/20/2011

## Schedule Updates

### HepA & Twinrix

As you all know, the immunization schedule is complex and very difficult to interpret at times. HepA and Twinrix have been giving us some trouble but we've finally been able to program NESIIS to handle it correctly.

Many of you noted that often NESIIS was throwing clients into the Twinrix schedule, even if they hadn't received that vaccine.

Due to the complexities of the schedule and limitations of our current wizard, a little extra effort is sometimes needed to stop unexpected results such as this. We made some changes to the system and launched the updated fixes in December. The New Wizard will make it easier to handle these complex schedules.

As always, please let us know if you see any problems with the schedule or the recommendations in NESIIS. You are our experts and we rely on you to help make NESIIS the best it can be.

### Polio

Polio is another one of those difficult schedules to handle in NESIIS – probably more difficult than most others.

Many of you are aware that we've had ongoing issues with this schedule and although NESIIS handles most scenarios well, there are still some unique circumstances it can't process.

We've been doing some additional tweaking to the polio schedule and feel it's about as good as it can get until the New Wizard arrives.

As always we just want to stress that no matter how good NESIIS is, your knowledge and experience with the immunization schedule should **always** be used in making immunization administration decisions. NESIIS is there as a tool to help guide you in your practice but it should never be used to replace what you have learned in your many years of schooling and experience.



## New To NESIIS!

These new players joined the NESIIS team since Sep., 2011.

Brady Clinic

Fillmore Co. Medical Center

Sunny Meadow Medical Clinic

Bellevue Health Clinic

Farrell's Pharmacy

U-Save Pharmacy – N. Platte

Mt. Carmel Home

Bert's Pharmacy

Medicap Pharmacy #8342

Omaha Children's Clinic

Family Service of Lincoln

**WELCOME!**

## Staff Contacts

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# Public Access Tips, Again

### Good job!

Many of you are directing parents to the public access portal so they can locate and print out the records on their children. Great job helping advertise this!

### Remember, we need the SSN:

The SSN must be entered for parents to be able to see their child's information. It's important to assure this info is being populated, so don't hesitate to ask for it.

## Staff Changes

### Just a reminder:

Please advise us of any staff changes as soon as they happen, or well in advance, by e-mailing the Help Desk.

By keeping access limited to only current employees, we can better maintain the security of NESIIS and accuracy of the data.

If you have new employees you'd like to add, e-mail the Help Desk with their name, phone number, e-mail address and what functions they should be able to do. An account will be set up as soon as possible.

## Complete

### Complete Data Needed!

Whenever you are creating new clients in NESIIS, or working with an existing one, please complete as much of the demographic information as possible.

Having a full address, SSN and the mom's name goes a long way toward assisting with de-duplication and client identification for not only new client entry but especially for data exchange.

With the large increase in data exchange, having complete information is even more necessary than before. Please help!



**Nebraska State Immunization Information System**

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