



**AIRA**  
AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION  
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

# INFORMATION REQUEST

## Topic: IIS Maintenance of Vaccine Lot Numbers

**Request Date:** August 9, 2023

**Information Requested:**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services IIS is looking to understand if and how IIS maintain vaccine lot numbers. When data is received from various systems, EHRs, VTrckS, etc., it can come in varied formats, such as lot numbers sent with mixed, lower, or uppercase characters.

- Do you normalize lot numbers in your IIS, or do you maintain the data as reported by the sender?
- Is there any reason you do (or might) treat lot numbers such as Char123 differently from CHAR123?
- Have you encountered other systems you interface with (e.g. VTrckS, EHRs, etc.) where (un)normalized data would create issues with the interface?
- Do you have other information you'd like to offer?

**Requesting Member:** Kevin Samuelson

**Responding Member(s):** Rashid M. Malik (MD)

**Results:**

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**Maryland:**

Do you normalize lot numbers in your IIS, or do you maintain the data as reported by the sender?

Yes, all lot numbers are converted to uppercase to assist with the matching process for various use cases.



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Is there any reason you do (or might) treat lot numbers such as Char123 differently from CHAR123?

Since we standardize lot numbers, all are processed the same way. Any lot number data received with lower letters is automatically converted to uppercase. This is not ideal but better than comparing the same lot numbers where the case may be different.

Have you encountered other systems you interface with (e.g. VTrckS, EHRs, etc.) where (un)normalized data would create issues with the interface?

VTrckS uses standardized lot numbers, but it is quite common for EHRs to report invalid lot numbers where a valid lot number is appended with other information (e.g., 0535Y (VFC), U3046AA (VFC), D0052-2 (VFC), E0272-1, U3006EA - PRIVATE, and so on). It is difficult to catch data entry issues since this field type is VARCHAR and alphanumeric values are expected/allowed. For example, D0052-2 and D0052 would be considered different lot numbers.

Do you have other information you'd like to offer?

This is a challenging topic, and it is very difficult to control end-users' behavior. We may enhance our system to accept lot numbers without any punctuation, spaces, or symbols, but it is very difficult to enforce unless this is also enforced by EHRs. We can reject lot numbers that do not follow certain conventions, but this introduces the risk of having blank lot number values for a lot of records. A larger discussion needs to happen nationally to come up with standards to ensure data quality.