

ALERT Immunization Information System

FlatFile Message Reference

Version 1.02

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CHANGE HISTORY.....	4
RESPONSE FILE INTRODUCTION.....	5
Downloading the Response File	5
General Response File Structure	5
Job Information	5
Files Received by ALERT IIS.....	6
Patients that are Pending.....	6
Patients that were Rejected.....	6
Patients that were Accepted, though had one or more Immunizations that were Rejected	6
Patients that were Accepted, though had one or more optional fields that were invalid.....	6
Locating the Source Records for each Message.....	6
MESSAGE REFERENCE.....	8
CL - Client Messages	9
CL: Information error - Invalid street address (xxx). No Address values stored. [Responsible Person Street Address]	9
CL: Informational error - Invalid city (xxx). No value stored. [Responsible Person City]	9
CL: Informational error - Invalid responsible party first name (xxx). No value stored. [Responsible Person First Name].....	9
CL: Informational error - Invalid responsible party last name (xxx). No value stored. [Responsible Person Last Name].....	9
CL: Informational Error. Patient does not have any immunizations associated with it in immunization file.	10
CL: Invalid child suffix detected. Value not saved. [CHILD SUFFIX]	10
CL: Invalid SSN. SSN either starts with 000 or ends with 0000. [SSN]	10
CL: Invalid SSN. SSN has 9 identical numbers. [SSN]	10
CL: Invalid SSN. SSN has an invalid pattern. [SSN].....	10
CL: Invalid SSN. SSN has non-numeric characters. [SSN].....	10
CL: Record Rejected - Invalid first name (xxx). [Client First Name].....	10
CL: Record Rejected - Invalid Last Name (xxx). [Client Last Name]	11
CL: Record rejected. Patient last name must be greater than one character in length. [Client Last Name]	11
CL: Record rejected. This patient has existing immunizations with vaccination date(s) prior to the patient's birth date. [N/A].....	11
CL: Record rejected. Patient First Name must be entered. [FIRST NAME].....	11
CL: Record rejected. Patient Last Name must be entered. [LAST NAME]	11
CL: Record rejected. xxx is not a valid first name.....	12
CL: Record rejected. xxx is not a valid last name.....	12

CL: Record(s) may be locked. Please contact ALERT Help Desk for more information. [N/A]	12
CL: The incoming patient information has been saved (ID xxx) for review by a State BA, who will decide the appropriate existing patient to match to. [N/A]	12
CL: The incoming patient matches more than one existing candidate. Existing candidate patient ids include xxx yyy . [N/A].....	12
CO –Comment Messages	13
CO: Record rejected. This comment matches another comment in incoming file. [N/A].....	13
CO: Comment Record rejected. Inaccurate or missing data. No value stored. [COMMENT CODE]	13
CO: Comment Record rejected. A valid date must be entered. [APPLIES TO DATE]	13
IM – Immunization Messages	14
IM: Added potential duplicate immunization in the system.. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: mmddyyyy CPT Code: xxx. [N/A]	14
IM: Added potential duplicate immunization in the system.. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: xxx CPT Code: yyy. [N/A] ... Error! Bookmark not defined.	
IM: Incoming Immunization already exists in the system. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: mmddyyyy. [N/A].....	14
IM: Informational Error: Vaccine Eligibility Code empty or not valid for organization. No value stored.. [Vaccine Eligibility]	14
IM: Record rejected. Invalid CVX Code [xx]	15
IM: Record rejected. This immunization matches another immunization in incoming file. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: mmddyyyy. [N/A]	15
IM: Record rejected. Vaccination date must be entered before today and after the birthdate. [VACCINATION DATE].....	15
IM: Invalid vaccine administration date. Date of birth after administration date. [IMMUNIZATION VACCINATION DATE]	15
IM: The CPT Code does not match with the other codes provided [IMMUNIZATION IDENTIFIER (Cpt Code)]	15
INVALID ADDRESS VALUES	17
VALID SUFFIX VALUES	17
INVALID FIRST NAME VALUES	18
INVALID LAST NAME VALUES.....	19

Change History

Published / Revised Date	Version #	Author	Section / Nature of Change
12/22/2011	1.0	OIP	Initial release version
01/12/2012	1.01	OIP	Added Invalid Addresses and Valid Suffixes
04/30/2013	1.02	OIP	Added message modifications post DEIP

Response File Introduction

After a file is uploaded into IIS and processed, a Response file is generated with information about the status of each record. A Response file is available for both SFTP uploads and uploads done through the Data Exchange module of IIS.

For additional information about the contents of the Flat Files sent in and out of ALERT IIS, please see the companion document, "Flat File Transfer Specifications."

Downloading the Response File

To get the Response file for study, follow these steps.

1. Log into the ALERT IIS System.
2. Navigate to 'Job Monitor' link under 'Data Exchange' menu bar on left-hand side of screen.
3. Select desired 'Job Status' reporting period (default is 7 days) using the drop-down menu at the top of the screen.
4. Select the 'Go to Completed Jobs Section' link (or scroll down to the completed jobs section of the page).
5. Click on the 'Job Name' link for the response file you would like to review.
6. Right-click on the 'Response File' link, select 'Save Target As...' in the pop-up menu.
7. You may want to add '.txt' to the end of the file name, so the file will open easily in Notepad when you double-click it. For example, here is the original file name and the modified file name:

Original file name: 27352.response
Modified file name: 27352.response.txt

General Response File Structure

The Response file is organized into sections for easy reference. Using Notepad or another text file editor, you can jump to each of these sections by searching the file for "*** " (asterisk, asterisk, space).

Job Information

Job ID: 28187
Job Start Date: Thu Jul 21 13:01:23 PDT 2011
Job End Date: Thu Jul 21 16:37:35 PDT 2011

Files Received by ALERT IIS

This section contains record counts by type. Here is a sample:

DESCRIPTION	PATIENT	IMMUNIZATION	COMMENT
Processed	116933	8827	0
Accepted	116141	8783	0
New	1192	8783	0
Updated	114949	0	0
Already in ALERT IIS	0	0	0
Rejected	149	6	0
Pending	643	38	0
Inventory Updated	0	0	0
Inventory Not Updated	0	8788	0

Patients that are Pending

These are Patients IIS attempted to locate in the Patient database and two or more possible matches were found. The imported Immunization and Comment records for the Client that pass validation will be held in Pending with the Client record until the Pending match is processed by State IIS staff.

Patients that were Rejected

These are Patients that IIS could not successfully import. Because the Patient data was not valid, the Client could not be matched and therefore the Immunization and Comment data could not be imported either.

Patients that were Accepted, though had one or more Immunizations that were Rejected

The Patient data was valid and could be used to either match or create a new Demographic record, but at least one Immunization record was rejected.

Patients that were Accepted, though had one or more optional fields that were invalid

The Patient data was valid for the Required fields, but some of the optional fields were ignored. The Immunization and Comment data was processed.

Locating the Source Records for each Message

Following is a sample message, with the lines truncated and the important parts of the response underlined.

```
[1234567] Patient HENRY, JOHN DAVID Born 08011987
CL          The incoming patient matches more than one existing candidate..
CL          The incoming patient information has been saved (ID 7083648) for...
CL          Record(s) may be locked. Please contact ALERT Help Desk for more...
```

“1234567” is the Record Identifier from the incoming file and can be used to locate the affected records in the three data files.

“CL” indicates this is a Patient (Client) message. It will help you find the section of the Message Reference which explains the message on the rest of this line.

“The incoming patient matches more than one existing candidate” is one of the messages to look for in the Message Reference.

Immunization messages include more information to help you locate the specific record.

```
[1122334] Patient SMITH, DAWN B Born 06011994  
IM10092010|90658| Added potential duplicate immunization in the system..
```

The “1122334” is the Record Identifier in the incoming file.

“IM10092010|90658” indicates this is an Immunization record on 10/09/2010 for a CPT code of 90658.

Message Reference

Messages are organized alphabetically by the source file they affect. The file types are:

- CL for Client or Patient Records for the Patient data file
- CO for Comment Records for the comment data file (optional)
- IM for Immunization Records for the Immunization data file

General notes about Response file messages:

1. When a specific field is involved in the error, it is shown at the end of the message in square brackets. For example, a Social Security Number validation error will show the message with “[SSN]” at the end.

Severity explanations:

- Low These messages have no effect on which records end up in the system. Most of these are noted as Informational in the message text. For example, an address field is an invalid format, so the address fields are ignored, but the Demographic record is still imported.
- Medium These messages prevent some of the records for a patient from being imported, but the rest of them are still imported for the patient.
- High These prevent all of a single patient’s data from being imported.
- Critical These are file-wide errors that prevent all of the data from being imported.

Some messages which include the text “Information Only” actually have a greater impact on processing. These will be noted in the Severity.

CL - Client Messages

CL: Information error - Invalid street address (xxx). No Address values stored. [Responsible Person Street Address]

Severity: Low
Example: Information error - Invalid street address (UNKNOWN). No Address values stored. [Responsible Person Street Address]
Explanation: An invalid Street Address was sent in the file, so the address fields were rejected. The rest of the client data was processed according to IIS business rules. This prevents a good address from being replaced with invalid information.
How to Fix: No action is required, but a valid address could be entered into the sending system to prevent this message.

CL: Informational error - Invalid city (xxx). No value stored. [Responsible Person City]

Severity: Medium
Example: Informational error - Invalid city (RIDGECREST, CA). No value stored. [Responsible Person City]
Explanation: An invalid City value was sent in the file, so the address fields were ignored. The rest of the client data was processed according to IIS business rules. This could be a new address IIS should have on file, but the system is unable to apply the update.
How to Fix: Edit the City in the sending system to include only the City name.

CL: Informational error - Invalid responsible party first name (xxx). No value stored. [Responsible Person First Name]

Severity: Medium
Example: Informational error - Invalid responsible party first name (ADAM BRENT). No value stored. [Responsible Person First Name]
Explanation: An invalid First Name value was sent, so the field was ignored. The rest of the client data was processed according to IIS business rules.
How to Fix: Edit the First Name field in the sending system. If the field includes the Middle Name, move this value to the appropriate Middle Name field. See the list of Invalid First Names at the end of this document.
Variations: **CL: Informational error - Invalid mother's first name. No value stored**

CL: Informational error - Invalid responsible party last name (xxx). No value stored. [Responsible Person Last Name]

Severity: Medium
Example: Informational error – Invalid responsible party last name (SMITH/JONES). No value stored. [Responsible Person Last Name]

See Also: The invalid party first name message. This is identical except the field involved is the Last Name and the rejection is due to special characters in the field.

CL: Informational Error. Patient does not have any immunizations associated with it in immunization file.

Severity: Low
Explanation: A Patient record was sent in the Patient file, but there were no Immunization records found in the Immunization file which match it. The [Record Identifier] field is used to link the Patient, Immunization, and Comment records together.
How to Fix: This message is informational. A Demographic record is still created for this Patient even when Immunizations are not sent.

CL: Invalid child suffix detected. Value not saved. [CHILD SUFFIX]

Severity: Low
Example: Invalid child suffix detected. Value not saved. [CHILD SUFFIX]
Explanation: An invalid child suffix was sent in the file, so the suffix field was rejected. The rest of the client data was processed according to IIS business rules. This prevents a good suffix from being replaced with invalid information.
How to Fix: No action is required, but a valid suffix could be entered into the sending system to prevent this message.

CL: Invalid SSN. SSN either starts with 000 or ends with 0000. [SSN]

Severity: Low
Explanation: The Social Security Number field in the file is invalid.
How to Fix: The SSN is optional. To prevent this message, remove the placeholder SSN from the sending system or remove it during file creation.

CL: Invalid SSN. SSN has 9 identical numbers. [SSN]

See Also: The previous message.

CL: Invalid SSN. SSN has an invalid pattern. [SSN]

Severity: Medium
Explanation: A valid Social Security Number must be made up of exactly nine digits.
How to Fix: Correct the data in the sending system.

CL: Invalid SSN. SSN has non-numeric characters. [SSN]

See Also: The previous message.

CL: Record Rejected - Invalid first name (xxx). [Client First Name]

Severity: High
Example: Record Rejected - Invalid first name ("JOHN" JACOB). [Client First Name]
Explanation: An invalid name was sent for the first name field. The only punctuation symbols allowed in the First Name field are hyphens, apostrophes, periods and spaces.

Because this is a critical field used for matching, all of the data for this Client is rejected.

How to Fix: Remove punctuation symbols from the Client First Name field. If the field contains the middle name, move it to the Middle Name field. See the list of Invalid First Names at the end of this document.

CL: Record Rejected - Invalid Last Name (xxx). [Client Last Name]

Severity: High

Example: Record Rejected - Invalid Last Name (SMITH/JONES). [Client Last Name]

Explanation: An invalid Last Name value was sent in the file. The only punctuation symbols allowed in the Last Name field are hyphens, apostrophes, periods and spaces (e.g., for a hyphenated name, such as SMITH-JONES). Because this is a critical field used for matching, all of the data for this Client is rejected.

How to Fix: Remove or replace the invalid punctuation. See the list of Invalid Last Names at the end of this document.

CL: Record rejected. Patient last name must be greater than one character in length. [Client Last Name]

Severity: High

Explanation: The Last Name field must be at least two characters or more to be considered a valid Last Name. Because this is a critical field used for matching, all of the data for this Client is rejected.

How to Fix: Provide the Client's full last name.

CL: Record rejected. This patient has existing immunizations with vaccination date(s) prior to the patient's birth date. [N/A]

Severity: High

Explanation: Immunization administration dates must be equal to or greater than DOB values in the IIS. This error can occur with incorrect DOB submission in file, date of immunization administration errors in the IIS or, in rare cases, when distinct clients are mistakenly merged as a single client.

How to Fix: Please verify valid dates in your files. If all source file dates are valid, please contact the ALERT Help Desk locally at 971-673-0275 or toll free at 800-980-9431 to assist with resolving the problem by updating DOB values or un-merging distinct clients.

CL: Record rejected. Patient First Name must be entered. [FIRST NAME]

Severity: High

Explanation: The First Name is required. Because this is a critical field used for matching, all of the data for this Client is rejected.

How to Fix: Provide the Client's first name.

CL: Record rejected. Patient Last Name must be entered. [LAST NAME]

Severity: High

Explanation: The Last Name is required. Because this is a critical field used for matching, all of the data for this Client is rejected.
How to Fix: Provide the Client's last name.

CL: Record rejected. xxx is not a valid first name

Severity: High
Example: Record rejected. TWIN GIRL 1 is not a valid first name. [Client First Name]
Explanation: Certain names are not allowed in the IIS. This is because first and last name values are weighted heavily in the merging algorithm that automatically deduplicates clients upon import. Thus, names like 'Baby' are rejected to prevent mis-merging of distinct individuals.
How to Fix: Provide the real first name for the client. See the list of Invalid First Names at the end of this document.

CL: Record rejected. xxx is not a valid last name

See also: The record above. See the list of Invalid Last Names at the end of this document.

CL: Record(s) may be locked. Please contact ALERT Help Desk for more information. [N/A]

Severity: High
Explanation: Certain events cause records to be locked, which prevents IIS from updated them during the importing process.
How to Fix: The records will need to be resubmitted after the lock has been cleared. Contact the ALERT Help Desk locally at 971-673-0275 or toll free at 800-980-9431 to determine if the lock is still active on the client.

CL: The incoming patient information has been saved (ID xxx) for review by a State BA, who will decide the appropriate existing patient to match to. [N/A]

Severity: Low
Example: The incoming patient information has been saved (ID 99887766) for review by a State BA, who will decide the appropriate existing patient to match to. [N/A]
Explanation: IIS found two or more possible clients to match to the incoming data, so it placed all of the data for the client into a Pending area. An IIS Business Analyst reviews the data to make a final determination about the client to which the data belongs. Until the Pending matches are resolved, the Immunization data will not appear in IIS.
How to Fix: No action required on your part.

CL: The incoming patient matches more than one existing candidate. Existing candidate patient ids include xxx yyy . [N/A]

Example: The incoming patient matches more than one existing candidate. Existing candidate patient ids include 9876543 9876542 . [N/A]
See Also: The previous message.

CO –Comment Messages

CO: Record rejected. This comment matches another comment in incoming file.

[N/A]

Severity: Low
Explanation: The entire comment record for the client is duplicated in the comment file. This duplicated copy of the comment is ignored.
How to Fix: No action required, unless you suspect something in the file generation process is causing duplicate records to be sent.

CO: Comment Record rejected. Inaccurate or missing data. No value stored.

[COMMENT CODE]

Severity: Low
Explanation: Each comment record must have a Record Identifier, Comment Code and Begin Date in the source file.
How to Fix: Send complete comment records using the comment code set. Contact ALERT if you need assistance.

CO: Comment Record rejected. A valid date must be entered. [APPLIES TO DATE]

Severity: Low
Explanation: Start Date and End Date values must be in MMDDYYYY format.
How to Fix: Ensure proper date formats for comment records.

IM – Immunization Messages

IM: Added potential duplicate immunization in the system.. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: mmddyyyy CPT Code: xxx. [N/A]

Severity: Medium
Example: Added potential duplicate immunization in the system.. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: 05192011 CPT Code: 90734. [N/A]
Explanation: IIS matched to the Client and added an Immunization entry to the database that was close enough to an existing immunization that it should be checked.
How to Fix: Using the data shown for the Client, look the client up in IIS. Locate the Immunization record indicated, and then identify the site who also reported giving the same immunization. Contact clinic to verify and request deletion if they did not administer.

IM: Incoming Immunization already exists in the system. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: mmddyyyy. [N/A]

Severity: Low
Example: Incoming Immunization already exists in the system. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: 02102005. [N/A]
Explanation: IIS matched to the Client and found the Immunization record was already there. The existing record will continue to be attributed to the source that previously reported it.
How to Fix: No action required. This is a very common message because data can come to IIS from many sources.

IM: Informational Error: Vaccine Eligibility Code empty or not valid for organization. No value stored.. [Vaccine Eligibility]

Severity: Low for non-VFC sites; High for VFC sites
Explanation: The Vaccine Eligibility Code is optional in the Immunization records. This is a message to notify you the data was not present or that your organization is not set up to provide eligibility codes to the IIS.
How to Fix: No action required for non-participating clinics. If you participate in VFC, eligibility codes can be sent electronically or entered in the IIS user interface.

If you already enter codes through the UI, you can disregard this error message. If you are sending eligibility status electronically, please verify the codes have been properly translated. If codes are correct in source file, contact ALERT Help Desk locally at 971-673-0275 or toll free at 800-980-9431 to ensure your organization is set up properly.

IM: Record rejected. Invalid CVX Code [xx]

Severity: High
Example: Record rejected. Invalid CVX Code [60]
Explanation: The CVX field was filled in for the Immunization record, but the value is not valid according to the lookup table. The entire Immunization record was rejected, even if other coding systems (like NDC Code) were specified correctly.
How to Fix: See the "ALERT IIS Vaccine Codes" document for valid values.

IM: Record rejected. This immunization matches another immunization in incoming file. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: mmddyyyy. [N/A]

Severity: Low
Example: Record rejected. This immunization matches another immunization in incoming file. The incoming immunization that this system retained may be identified by the following characteristics -> Vaccination Date: 01301995. [N/A]
Explanation: The entire immunization record for the client is duplicated in the immunization file. This duplicated copy of the immunization is ignored. This may be an indicator that both combination and single antigen codes are sent for a single administration event (i.e., Varicella is loaded first and then MMRV codes later in the import process on the same day for same client will be rejected as duplicate). Recommend sending code for antigen administered.
A second common reason for duplicates of the same immunization is that the record has been entered twice in the EMR. For example, it is entered once with additional information such as lot number and once without. These duplicates should be resolved prior to sending so that the best record is purposefully selected.
How to Fix: No action required, unless you suspect something in the file generation process is causing duplicate records to be sent or that there are serious data entry issues.

IM: Record rejected. Vaccination date must be entered before today and after the birthdate. [VACCINATION DATE]

Severity: High
Explanation: To be a valid vaccination, the Immunization date must be between the client's birthdate and today. The client's birthdate is determined by business rules and the values in the incoming Patient record's Birth Date and any Birth Date already in the system. The immunization record is rejected.
How to Fix: If the IIS Client's birthdate is wrong, it may require a call to ALERT IIS Help Desk to correct it. If the Vaccination Date is wrong in the incoming file, correct it in the source system. If neither of those corrects it, it may be that IIS is properly ignoring bad data.

IM: Invalid vaccine administration date. Date of birth after administration date. [IMMUNIZATION VACCINATION DATE]

Severity: High

Explanation: Immunization administration date in file was prior to the DOB sent in the incoming file.

How to Fix: Verify DOB and immunization date in EMR. Correct DOB in IIS as needed or resubmit immunizations with corrected date.

IM: The CPT Code does not match with the other codes provided [IMMUNIZATION IDENTIFIER (Cpt Code)]

Severity: Medium

Explanation: The specification allows one or more forms of Vaccine Identification to be provided: NDC Code, Trade Name, CPT Code, CVX Code, and Vaccine Group. When this message appears, it means two or more forms were filled out, but they refer to different Vaccines.

How to Fix: See the "ALERT IIS Vaccine Codes" document for valid values. Although several vaccine identifiers are acceptable, you only need to send one code set in the immunization file.

Invalid Address values

The following values are not allowed in any of the Address fields.

ADDRESS COMMENT DECEASED DO NOT USE FAMILY PLANNING FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES GENERAL DELIVERY MAIL RETURNED MOVED NO CURRENT PLANN PARENTHOO PLANNED PARENTHOOD UNKNOWN UPDATE
--

Valid Suffix values

The following values are the only allowable values for any of the Suffix fields.

DR DVM FC FR IIII JR KC M D MD PVT REV SISTER SR VIII
--

Invalid First Name values

The following values are not allowed in any of the First Name fields.

AF BABY	GIRL II	INFANTBOY	THWJ
BABY	HBS	INFANTGIR	TOMORROW'S CHILDREN
BABY B	HRH	INFANTGIRL	TSWJ
BABY BOY	ILLEGIBLE SIGNATURE	INFANTMAL	TSWM
BABY G	INFANT	INFANTMALE	TSWV
BABY GIRL	INFANT BO	LCFS	TXWM
BABYB	INFANT BOY	LSS	UFA
BABYBOY	INFANT FE	LSS BABY	UNK
BABYGIRL	INFANT FEM	LWG	UNKN
BOY I	INFANT G	MRS	UNKNOEN
BOY II	INFANT GI	NEWBORN	UNKNOWN
CHILD	INFANT GIR	NFN	UNKOWN
CSS	INFANT GIRL	NTXHW	UNNAMED
FEMALE	INFANT GRL	PVN	UNREADABLE
FIRE DEPT	INFANT M	SIGNATURE	WLCFS
GIRL	INFANT MA	SLKDFSLKD	XWM
GIRL I	INFANT MAL	SRM	XXX

Invalid Last Name values

The following values are not allowed in any of the Last Name fields.

A BABY	CFCFS	INFANT GIRL	S BABY
A F BABY	CS	INFANTBOY	S C I
AF	CSS	INFANTGIRL	SB
AF BABY	CSS BABY	INFANTMALE	SC
AF BABY BO	CSSW	L S S	SIGNATURE
AF BABY GI	D S S	LCFD	SMRT
AFBABY	DCS	LCFS	SRB
B C S	DFS	LCSF	SRFC
B S C	DSS	LNAME	SRP
BABY	E BABY	LS	SS
BABY BOY	F BABY	LSDKFSLDK	T A O
BABY GIRL	FEMALE	LSS	UFA
BABYBOY	FF	LSSFC	UNK
BABYGIRL	FIRE DEPT	LT JR	UNKN
BCS	FWV	M BABY	UNKNOEN
BCSW	G BABY	M BABY BOY	UNKNOWN
BRT	GARCIA INF	NEWBORN	UNKOWN
BSC	GIRL	NLN	UNNAMED
C A C	GSST	O BABY	UNREADABLE
C S	H BABY BOY	P BABY	V BABY
C S S	INFANT	PCS	VLK
CAC	INFANT BOY	R BABY	WLCFS
CBS	INFANT FEM	S B A	Z BABY
CCS			