

## Choosing an Electronic Medical Record

Choosing an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system is a crucial decision for healthcare providers. Here is a general overview of how physicians typically choose an EMR:

**Assessing Needs:** Before selecting an EMR, physicians assess their practice's specific needs. This includes considering factors such as the size of the practice, specialty, workflow requirements, integration needs with other systems, compliance requirements (such as PHIPAA), and budget constraints.

**Research:** Physicians research different EMR options available in the market. They might consult colleagues, attend industry conferences, read reviews, and explore online resources to gather information about various EMR systems.

**Demo and Trial:** After narrowing down their options, physicians often request demos or trials of the EMR systems they're interested in. This allows them to see the interface, features, and functionalities firsthand and evaluate how well the system aligns with their practice's needs.

**Ease of Use:** Physicians prioritize ease of use when selecting an EMR. They look for systems that are intuitive and user-friendly, as they do not want technology to disrupt patient care or add unnecessary complexity to their workflows.

**Customization and Flexibility:** EMR systems should be customizable to accommodate the specific needs of the practice. Physicians seek systems that allow them to tailor templates, workflows, and clinical decision support tools to fit their practice's unique requirements.

**Integration:** Integration is essential for the seamless exchange of patient information between different health-care providers and systems. Physicians prefer EMR systems that support interoperability standards and enable easy sharing of patient data (such as client registry, labs, etc.).

**Security and Compliance:** Physicians prioritize security and compliance features when choosing an EMR. They look for systems that offer robust data security measures, encryption protocols, access controls, and compliance with regulatory requirements such as PHIPAA.

**Vendor Reputation and Support:** The reputation of the EMR vendor and the quality of their customer support are crucial considerations. Physicians prefer vendors with a track record of reliability, responsiveness, and ongoing support to ensure smooth implementation and continued assistance post-implementation.

**Cost:** Cost is a significant factor in EMR selection. Physicians evaluate the upfront costs, ongoing subscription fees, implementation expenses, training costs, and potential return on investment (ROI) when choosing an EMR system that fits within their budget. Certified EMR products qualify for the NBMS EMR Program.

**Scalability:** As practices grow or evolve, they need EMR systems that can scale with them. Physicians consider the scalability of EMR systems to accommodate changes in practice size, patient volume, and technological advancements over time.

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By carefully considering these factors, physicians can choose an EMR system that enhances efficiency, improves patient care, and meets the unique needs of their practice.

## How the New Brunswick Medical Society can help:

**Assessing needs:** Speak to one of our Practice Support Specialists to identify your personal needs for your EMR selection.

**Research:** While the province follows an Open Market Policy, there are some EMRs that are large stakeholders within the province. Here are a few website links below to begin your research:

Intrahealth - [www.intrahealth.com/products/profile](http://www.intrahealth.com/products/profile)

Telus - [www.telus.com/en/health/health-professionals/clinics/get-started](http://www.telus.com/en/health/health-professionals/clinics/get-started)

MEDFAR - [www.medfarsolutions.com/en/myle](http://www.medfarsolutions.com/en/myle)

**Demo and Trial:** Each of these EMR companies should be able to offer a demo and trial. Our Practice Support Specialists can help you get connected, or request a demo using these links:

Intrahealth - [www.intrahealth.com/book-a-demo](http://www.intrahealth.com/book-a-demo)

Telus - [www.telus.com/en/health/contact/sales/clinics](http://www.telus.com/en/health/contact/sales/clinics)

MEDFAR - [www.medfarsolutions.com/en/book-a-demo](http://www.medfarsolutions.com/en/book-a-demo)

**Application (Ease of use, Customization and Flexibility):** Our Practice Support Specialists can provide guidance on how each EMR system may be able to fit each practice's specific needs.

**Integration:** Certified EMR's have the ability to be connected with external provincial processes that help streamline your clinic. Only certified EMR's can do this to protect sensitive patient data. Examples of tools available are as follows:

1. EHR Clinical Viewer - Allows clinicians to see patient information from other health-care facilities to help have a full overview of the patient.
2. EMR Excelleris Laboratory Report Delivery - Allows clinics to send and receive lab results from hospitals or other healthcare facilities.

Please click [here](#) for more information on the benefits of selecting a provincially certified EMR.

**Security and compliance:** Our Practice Support Specialists have the experience and knowledge to help give guidance on each of the reputable EMR companies' security background. Another advantage of choosing a certified EMR is knowing that all safety and compliance requirements are being met and checked on a regular basis.

**Cost:** Each company offers different costs and payment options. NBMS offers to reimburse 50% of monthly EMR fees up to a maximum of \$220, paid on a yearly basis.

**Sociability:** Our Practice Support Specialists will work closely with each EMR company and stay up to date with new features and add-ons to help support continuous growth in the EMR sector.

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