



# WHAT DOES A SUBSTANCE USE FACILITY NEED IN AN EHR?

When it comes to substance use treatment, an EHR is instrumental in fostering better care coordination and improving clinical care. In order to meet the demands of addiction rehabilitation facilities, an EHR must account for both the operational needs of the agency - and the unique functional needs of clients, such as IOP (intensive outpatient)-specific and inpatient-specific options.

One of the main challenges for substance use treatment is coordination of care within the organization across multiple services and providers. This means SU organizations typically need EMR features such as ePrescribing, Decision Support, and Lab Integration.

They also often look for certified systems that qualify them to participate in programs like Meaningful Use, MACRA, MIPS, etc.

## **Here's our list of Substance Use-specific functionality that you should look for in an EHR:**

### **Bed Management**

When it comes to inpatient-specific features, you need to be able to see the real-time status of all the clients at your organization - and create a daily bed attendance log + daily notes for everyone, easily and efficiently.

### **Lab Integration**

With lab integration, you can pull lab result files directly into your practice management software, flag any criteria you want to monitor (such as having all positive drug tests show up red in the results), and can pull global reports based off those results.

### **Comprehensive Session Notes: Assessment, Progress, Group and Team**

Treatment for SUDs often requires integrated case management, which means that record-tracking; follow-up plans of care; and the development of performance indicators in a shared clinical decision-making platform are all essential to effective treatment.

Strong note management capabilities in a practice management software help to: monitor a client's progress, avoid redundant treatment and ensure that all of the information + authorization management associated with a patient's chart are integrated and easily accessible.

## E-Prescribing

E-Prescribing allows physicians, nurse practitioners and psychiatrists to electronically send prescriptions to a pharmacy instead of having to fax or call it in. Connecting the point of care directly to the pharmacy improves communication and collaboration; decreases the risk of medical error or prescription fraud; minimizes the risk of drug-to-drug or drug allergy interaction; and improves medication adherence.

When integrated with an EMR, you can manage medications, view patient history and send prescriptions - all from one place! If you are a psychiatrist or a clinician who is responsible for prescribing or managing medication, your practice may benefit greatly from e-prescribing.

## eMAR

With eMAR capabilities, you can track exactly which medications are administered to which client: by whom, where, and when. Not only does the eMAR feature give you total medication accountability, but it reduces administrative errors and decreases documentation time.

With built-in inventory, eMar allows a facility to track the med bottles, auto-decrement the bottle counts according to what has been dosed, and allows for matching of manual bottle counts to the system counts. For organizations that work directly with a pharmacy, or have an onsite pharmacy, this tracking can be linked to the original package all the way down to the individual pills. Bar code scanning technology is integrated with this feature.

## HIPAA-Compliant Telehealth

To support long distance client-clinician contact, EHRs can offer integrated HIPAA-compliant telehealth services. This capability allows you to conduct a session right from your calendar and sends automatic meeting invitations to your patients for seamless scheduling.

## UB-04 Billing

UB-04 is a type of billing an institutional provider can use for the reimbursement of medical and mental health claims. Billing for IOP (intensive outpatient) and inpatient services is very unique functionality that some EHRs do not consider when creating their billing rules and procedures but can be invaluable in a practice management program.

## Secure Hosting

Personal Health Information (PHI) security and HIPAA compliance is important for any agency, but especially crucial for substance use facilities. In order to protect your data and ensure compliance, an EHR should have secure hosting that adheres to HIPAA and HITECH protocols; encrypts communications and operation processes; blocks unauthorized traffic; and manages threats.

**PIMSY EHR was created by and for substance use and mental health providers and meets all of the criteria listed above.**

Contact us for a quote, details, or demo:  
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