

**ARRA/HITECH: In the ONC's Proposed Rule on Certification, there will be 2 types of EHR certification: Complete EHR and EHR Modules. What is the difference?**

**This is a critical question in the product selection process for each practitioner and clinic.**

Within the ambulatory care setting, there are 3 components that must be automated: **Financial, Operational, and Clinical**. The more integrated these component parts are, the smoother the work flow. In the ambulatory EHR market-space, automation of these 3 clinic workflows is approached in 2 fashions:

**1. Dual System Automation** – Under a dual system, a practice will select ABC practice management solution and XYZ EHR solution. In some instances, the same vendor may supply both component parts; in others disparate vendors are interfaced to work together. Dual System Vendor Examples: Allscripts, GE, NextGen, etc.

**2. Single Database Automation** – Under a single database solution, all 3 component parts are contained on a single database for true, seamless integration from the ground up with a single vendor. **EMB is a single database EHR solution with CareRevolution.**

**Meaningful Use Challenge:** Eligible Professionals (EPs) are required to use a “certified EHR technology” by statute under ARRA. This requirement means that the technology used for all measures and criteria for meaningful use must be carried out on health information technology that has been certified by an ONC Authorized Certification Body. EHR vendor products that meet all elements of meaningful use will be certified as **Complete EHRs**. EHR vendor products that do not meet all component parts of meaningful use will be certified as **EHR Modules**.

Under CMS' proposed rule for Stage 1 meaningful use, EPs must submit 80% of their claims electronically, and perform electronic eligibility checking on 80% of their patients. eClaims and eEligibility are inherent features of a practice management system. EHR vendor products that rely on a separate system for practice management, including claims and eligibility checking, would not be Complete EHRs.

Practices/providers selecting products that are not certified as Complete EHRs would have to assemble the necessary certified EHR modules to meet meaningful use using a certified EHR technology. Thus, if selecting a system that cannot perform eClaims submission and eEligibility checking from the EHR, would have to have an ONC certified practice management system for these component parts.

Additionally, on April 8, 2010, the HIT Policy committee recommended that certified EHR modules be required to be sold with a label indicating that HHS has not tested the module for interoperability with other modules.

These arising dynamics mean that professionals need to be careful in product selection so that they are not “stuck” with technology that will not position for success under ARRA/HITECH.

EMB provides physicians with a single database EHR product in CareRevolution. For more information please email us at [info@embllc.com](mailto:info@embllc.com) or call (866) 277-6754.