

EMR Demonstrations

Once you have defined your clinic's specific requirements, it is time to look at the electronic medical record (EMR) options. The best way to understand what each EMR offers is to see the product in action.

Attending an EMR vendor demonstration will provide you with a basic understanding of how the EMR works and its capabilities, functionality and benefits. Anyone who will be using the EMR will find the demonstration valuable.

As your understanding of the EMR options improves, some of your requirements may become of less interest while new requirements and priorities may emerge. You may also see that there are differences in the way that each EMR supports functions that are critical to your clinic.

Before the Demonstration

- Determine the best evaluation method for your selection: deliberations, evaluation scorecard, requirements checklist.
- When developing your evaluations tools, reference any reports prepared for you.
- Assign one person or a small team to make the final decision on your selection. This is an important choice that will improve the way your clinic operates and will impact the way you work together.

During the Demonstration

- Pay attention to how much time is spent keying and clicking particularly when entering a chart and in the screens that will be used frequently in your clinic.
- Review how tasks are assigned and how hand-offs between staff take place in your clinic. Observe how these same workflows may be accomplished in the EMR.
- Ask how to create a form or letter that includes data that is stored on the system—use an example from your clinic.