

Vendors

openEHR provides many advantages for health information system and application vendors. Because it is a standardised computing platform it enables many vendors to avoid re-inventing their own back-end for EHR, demographics, data integration and so on, and instead use one of the high-quality implementations becoming available. All of the API and service specifications are already or will soon be publicly available.

A prime source of efficiency when using the *openEHR* platform is the ability to use archetypes agreed formally elsewhere, ensuring genuine semantic interoperability of health records. This might be considered a form of cooperative clinical configuration. While such configuration is a source of income to vendors in the current environment, it is a waste for the health system as a whole and a source of many of the integration problems we are currently experiencing.

Application Vendors

Vendors of applications such as clinical systems for general practice, hospital departments, decision support and many others can use the *openEHR* platform for all clinical and potentially demographic information, rather than having to provide their own implementation. The application interacts with the *openEHR* platform via the virtual EHR (vEHR) API, Archetype Query Language (AQL) and XML, regardless of which implementation is used. Larger implementations support secure high-performance, high-volume EHR repositories.

openEHR Templates can be effectively used to build data capture, viewing and querying forms for an application. The forms can be generated from *openEHR* Templates using a template-building tool, in e.g. Xform, .Net or other formats. This ensures that the semantics of archetypes are preserved through the application stack.

Integration Vendors

Integrating with other data sources is facilitated by the use of *openEHR* Templates, which can be used to drive an integration engine that converts all manner of source data and documents into *openEHR* form, where it is archetype-conformant and can be treated as part of a patient-centric record. All audit trailing and feeder system meta-data (e.g. identifiers) is captured in *openEHR* structures, ensuring that links to source data are preserved.

Data from sources that are federated in this way can then be output in a number of formats, including *openEHR*, CEN EN13606, HL7 CDA rel2, PDF, and various XML and HTML.

Hospital Information System Vendors

Using an implementation of the *openEHR* platform as the back-end of a large system provides many advantages. Rather than having to constantly maintain a proprietary database structure, using the *openEHR* back-end will make the system applications much easier to manage and evolve. Integration with other systems is likely to be easier via the standard formats supported by the platform, including CEN EN13606, HL7 CDA, HL7v2.x and others.