



OWITS and Electronic Health Records (EHR) Fact Sheet

What is OWITS?

WITS (Web Infrastructure for Treatment Services) is a web-based open source software system available to Behavioral Health Treatment providers in Oregon. The system is being tailored for use in Oregon and called OWITS (Oregon Web Infrastructure for Treatment Services). This system is designed to meet the growing needs of capturing patient treatment data and satisfy mandatory government reporting requirements for the planning, administration, and monitoring of Behavioral Health Treatment Programs. WITS was originally developed and sponsored by a SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) project in 2001.

- There are currently 20 states, five counties and 1 tribal entity currently using or implementing WITS nation-wide.
- This includes more than 1,200 providers and over 20,000 users who are using the WITS system.
- Close to 1 million clients are being served through the use of the WITS system.

One of the major components of OWITS is an electronic health record system (EHR). The purpose of the OWITS EHR is to provide software that facilitates cooperation and collaboration across treatment providers by enabling the sharing of client treatment information (within the constraints of HIPAA and 42CFR regulations).

Staff continues to expand and modify the OWITS EHR system to specifically meet Oregon's needs. Initially, eleven providers piloted the system in 2011- mid 2012. Since then, several other treatment providers have begun using OWITS as their EHR and to report required treatment data.

In December 2011, WITS received the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Meaningful Use Certification as a "Complete EHR technology" in an ambulatory setting.

Why now?

Federal health care reform will require electronic health records (EHR) to be associated with all billing for Medicaid and Medicare services by 2014. Additionally, current State legacy systems have become antiquated and lack integration among internal systems, which adversely affects AMH's ability to meet our business needs, health information technology business needs, and the goals of House Bill 3650 (Coordinated Care Organizations). This new system will automatically submit/transfer required data elements to AMH, and an agency that uses the OWITS EHR will not need to separately submit CPMS, OPRCS, or MOTS data.

What is the Cost of the EHR for My Agency to Use?

Until July 1, 2015 there is no cost to use OWITS EHR other than your staff time for training, agency setup and business transition. After July 1, 2015, providers using the OWITS EHR will need to pay a monthly support and maintenance charge to the software vendor (FEi). The exact amount of the support and maintenance charges will be determined by the vendor. **This system is available to mental health and substance abuse providers in Oregon.** For more information on the requirements of using the OWITS EHR, check out our [web page](#) or review the [OWITS EHR Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ).

What you can expect as an OWITS EHR user?

- Web based training
- Training Manuals
- Reporting capabilities
- Standard Reports
- Outcome Measurement Reporting
- OWUG (OWITS EHR User Group) Membership
- Opportunity to have input on system changes
- Opportunity for meaningful use incentives
- No more CPMS reporting and no separate MOTS reporting! (OWITS EHR does this for you) once fully implemented

What is OWUG?

OWUG stands for Oregon WITS User Group and consists of the users of the EHR. This group meets monthly via an online meeting tool. The purpose of the OWUG is to allow for an open forum discussion on the use and maintenance of the OWITS EHR.

What if my agency already has an EHR in place?

It is great if your agency already has an EHR. AMH has developed a system that will allow you to transfer data from your existing EHR to us in order to meet the AMH data submission requirements.

- Three ways to submit data to AMH:
 1. Use the OWITS EHR
 2. EDI (Electronic Data Interchange): transferring data from your agency's EHR
 3. MOTS Client Entry: a secure web-based form

For more information, visit our web page at

<http://www.oregon.gov/oha/amh/pages/compass/ehr.aspx>

