
EMIS Users FAQ #5

Can EMIS accommodate the transfer of electronic patient information from other systems into EMIS?

Yes. Over the last fifteen years EMIS has carried out approximately 2,000 data transfers from a wide variety of EMR vendors.

What kind of data can be transferred?

1. Data elements – They are recorded throughout the system in a consistent manner and have a common name (e. g. Blood Pressure values, Medications)
2. Contextual elements – free text notes for patients

How can that data be transferred?

Data elements:

It is possible to assign temporary codes to these data elements and then EMIS will work with the data custodians to assign the correct formal code where appropriate.

Contextual elements:

Because contextual information relies on the ‘whole picture’ of how the data was entered, if required, ‘notes’ must be imported as attachments to existing patients in EMIS. This allows the user to see the data as if it was in their old system.

Transfer Options:

EMIS proposes four options to manage the changeover from existing Canadian EMRs to EMIS. Each option has advantages and disadvantages.

1. ToPD (Transfer of Patient Data) import - import all data from the provincially mandated ToPD extract into formally agreed placeholders in the PCS system
2. Exported encounter notes import – if the previous supplier can meet certain requirements, a file of all encounter notes with unique identifiers (to allow association with a patient list) can be incorporated into the EMIS patient record as attachments for reference.
3. Traditional data transfer - import all elements where appropriate from the source EMR
4. Previous System is left running ‘read only’ – The ability to do this will depend on the agreement between the original system vendor and the user.

For more information about Transfer Options, access the EMIS Canada Data Transfer document on the MDERA website.