

# USING AN EMR TO HELP MANAGE THE OPIOID CRISIS

To say that there is an opioid crisis gripping our nation is a huge understatement. To combat this, many doctors are opening clinics to help treat addicts and help this patient population gain control over addiction. Opening these clinics can come with challenges that a regular wellness clinic does not have to face.

## MANAGING THE PATIENT'S PHYSICAL HEALTH

An addicted patient requires the practitioner and staff to track health maintenance details pertinent to treating that patient. Your EMR should have a customizable decision support feature which can be set up to notify the practice that a patient needs drug testing, and to be able to track that testing for the practitioner to be made aware of results.

## MANAGING THE PATIENT'S MENTAL HEALTH

Many clinics employ psychiatrists and psychologists to provide care to an addicted patient to offset the psychological effects of their illness. You will need an EMR that is capable of documenting both the psychiatric visit notes, as well as the counseling documentation associated with individual and group counselling. How a patient is counselled should also be trackable.

## REPORTING FEATURES

Having the capability to see overall combinations of medications, treatments, and counseling, along with success rates, will make for a powerful tool to assist you in helping to not only control and cure your patient's addiction, it will also give you valuable insight into trends and how you may best combat the disease for future patients.

  
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