OSCAR BC
YOUR EMR

WELCOME!

OSCAR is getting better all the time, and it's due in part to the generous donations from members of our community, like you. **Thank you for helping out!**

We've been busy working to grow the OSCAR BC not-for-profit society, and working hard to get OSCARv15 installed,

This newsletter is the second of many that we'll be sending you to keep you informed and let you know what OSCAR BC is up to.

WHAT *IS* OSCARBC?

OSCAR BC is a not for profit society that is a collaboration of BC's OSCAR users, the companies providing OSCAR support (Chartered OSP'S), Software Developers, and IT Experts.

OSCAR is now the #1 most widely used EMR in BC and the OSCAR movement is growing fast! Our rapid growth in a changing the Health IT landscape has made it necessary to create a central structure to support and improve OSCAR for its users and the patients we serve. We have come together to keep making OSCAR better.

Like so many open source projects, one of the special features of OSCAR is community. OSCAR BC is working to harness the passion and daily experience of users to direct future development.

OSCAR BC is here to ensure that OSCAR stays up-to-date with developments in the healthcare environment in BC. Some of the funds go toward the full-time developers at OSCAR-EMR who maintain our program and help to keep it bug-free. Some of it goes to programming new features for BC users, and to the Quality Assurance and testing of these developments. Some goes to the governance of our society, and to pay for things like legal and other fees that keep our society running. And some of it helps to fund education and outreach, like our website, or the OSCAR-CON conferences.

Please let us know if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or if you just want to help. Send your requests to *info@oscarbc.ca*

DEVELOPMENTS

OSCAR BC is working on some big projects and new features:

- We are working towards the new CDA-format standard for lab reports in BC.
- We're working with Doctors of BC and the Practice Support Program (PSP) to support physician practices with simplified reporting functions that help with panel cleanup and ongoing panel maintenance. Look for details from PSP and GPSC about upcoming enhancements to this project and funding details to remunerate physicians for their time with this work.
- We have been working with PHSA on the Care Connect project
- We've created a new billing dashboard feature to help track CDM billings and more

We have several other exciting projects about to start that we'll tell you about in the next issue.

GET OSCAR

At OSCAR BC we believe selecting an EMR is more than just a software choice. It is about being part of a large and growing network of engaged clinicians who seek to improve health systems and outcomes for patients and communities, locally and globally, through leading edge research, development and knowledge sharing. This network includes McMaster, Queens, McGill and the University of British Columbia, and thousands of physicians and allied care providers across diverse practice settings.

Together with our skilled and committed **Charter OSCAR Service Providers (Charter OSP)**, OSCAR BC offers you safe, secure and feature-rich EMR software and membership in a vibrant, pioneering professional community. Charter OSCAR Service Providers have endorsed the OSCAR Charter and offer full-service support for your OSCAR software.

Connect with the Charter OSPs in your region to hear directly from them about their services and find out which offers a best fit for you.

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3RD PARTY APP'S

Many OSCAR Users are being approached by vendors offering APP's that connect to your OSCAR EMR or to your desktop providing scheduling, appointment bookings, reminders, locating a physician, and other similar services.

As the name implies, the program interfaces with the EMR to retrieve data needed for the service. Some are more expensive than others, depending on the features.

A WORD OF CAUTION, be CAREFUL when choosing to work with one of services. There is no such thing as a free lunch, or an APP for that matter. The service may be touted as free or low cost but they can consume valuable staff time and in some cases incompatibility issues with the EMR.

OSCAR BC has developed a 3rd Party Integration Statement that requires vendors to provide disclosure on what the product does and how it connects with OSCAR.

We suggest you contact your OSP before agreeing to install a 3rd Party Application.