

Abstract Behavioral health agencies will soon implement automated information–management systems to support their administrative, financial, and clinical care functions. Selecting an EMR instead of an integrated behavioral health information system was associated with a significant reduction in information system acquisition costs. Selection of a behavioral health electronic medical record (EMR) effectively addressed clinical care information–management needs without duplicating existing financial and administrative management functions. Also, the EMR included features that addressed some administrative functions for which a discrepancy between current capabilities and future needs was found. Few agencies, however, utilized automated systems to manage clinical care functions