

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.