

INFORMATION BULLETIN (November 12, 2014): Is OSCAR 12.1.1 (OSCAR EMR Affiliated Product) Safe and Secure?

Recent communications from Indivica to physicians have alleged that the Funding Eligible OSCAR 12.1.1 (OSCAR EMR Affiliated Product) has security and safety issues. The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to provide OSCAR EMR's response to the alleged issues in order to assist physicians in their due diligence as they seek to understand their options for ensuring they are using a Funding Eligible EMR. OSCAR EMR deeply regrets that physicians have been affected by Indivica's choice to deploy software that does not meet the requirements to be an Affiliated Product of OSCAR EMR.

OSCAR EMR's Analysis of Alleged Issues

OSCAR EMR first received notification of alleged issues in April, 2014 when Indivica provided a list to OntarioMD. We immediately conducted an analysis of all concerns and provided a response to Indivica, all other Approved OSPs/OSSPs and the open-source OSCAR community on April 17, 2014. Our review concluded and communicated the following (for more complete details on the analysis, please contact OSCAR EMR at info@oscar-emr.com):

There are no critical or security issues in OSCAR 12.1.1 where the OSCAR software and supporting hardware and network have been appropriately set up for the intended use, and the OSCAR System Administrator has implemented the appropriate permission and access rules for all users of the system. As with any software product, issues or bugs may be discovered after release of the software as it is further tested and implemented across many diverse settings. As a result of the transparent collaboration among OSCAR users, OSCAR Service Providers and OSCAR EMR, these issues are quickly identified, triaged and resolved in priority order, with all contributing as they best can to the issue resolution for the benefit of all.

OSCAR EMR Fully Supports Independent Third-Party Audit of Software

As open-source software, OSCAR is subject to a continuous independent review. All issues identified are publically available as the open-source community prioritizes, analyzes and works together to resolve them through the processes facilitated and overseen by OSCAR EMR.

In the current context in Ontario, however, some physicians are struggling to make sense of seemingly irreconcilable information about the safety and security of OSCAR provided by Indivica and OSCAR EMR. To further support physicians in this context, OSCAR EMR fully supports an independent third-party audit of the Funding Eligible software, initiated by OntarioMD. The findings will be made available to physicians in the OSCAR community as soon as the review is completed toward the end of this year.

OSCAR EMR's Invitation

OSCAR EMR most desires for physicians to receive and benefit from the “true OSCAR” – software that is shared across the community and collaboratively, continuously improved as one version, as this best enables clinicians and systems to work together toward the OSCAR community's larger cause of continuous health improvement for all. This one version is OSCAR 12.1.1 (Affiliated Product) which, in Ontario, is also the Funding Eligible version.

Regrettably, Indivica has decided to modify the OSCAR software in ways unknown to OSCAR EMR and the OSCAR community, precluding incorporation of those modifications into OSCAR EMR's Funding Eligible Offering. More importantly, Indivica's decision undermines the core values of the OSCAR community. Specifically it:

- limits or prohibits collaboration among OSCAR users due to different versions,
- presents barriers to exercising choice to work with a different Approved OSP or become an Approved OSCAR Self-Service Provider (OSSP), limiting freedom, and
- withholds potentially valuable improvements from other OSCAR users, reflecting proprietary practices rather than the OSCAR community ethos of sharing the best of all for all.

OSCAR EMR welcomes Indivica's full participation in the OSCAR community's collaborative work. It is our strong desire that the OSCAR community stay together, become stronger, and continue to grow!

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact OSCAR EMR (info@oscar-emr.com). We look forward to hearing from you!