

Information Bulletin: What Does OSCAR Stand For? (February 12, 2015)

- **As an acronym, “OSCAR”** stands for “Open Source Clinical Application Resource”.
- **As open-source, regulated EMR software** it stands for a robust, feature-rich, responsive and secure EMR designed and governed by its users.
- **As an open-source community, it stands for freedom, trust, collaboration, innovation and integrity for the greater good of all.**



OSCAR EMR and the OSCAR Canada User Society are not-for-profit organizations governed by OSCAR users that steward community collaboration and open-source OSCAR code management on behalf of the community we serve as we strive to do our part in realizing continuous health improvement for all (One Cause). **Together with OSCAR users and affiliated OSCAR Service Providers/Self-Service Providers (One Community) we are committed to providing a robust and comprehensive software product (One OSCAR) and preserving the effectiveness and integrity of the collaborative open-source software model.**

OSCAR By The Code

- The OSCAR open-source code is made available under GPL Version 2+ license from McMaster University (<http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl-2.0.html#SEC1>) which requires that any modified version of the software program distributed to users also be fully available in source code form to those users and any third party, along with a notice that the software program has been modified, including the date of the change.
- In keeping with the collaborative ethos and spirit of the OSCAR community, modifications to the OSCAR source code are contributed back to the original repository (“OSCAR Master”) for the good of all users. Approved OSCAR Service Providers/Self-Service Providers (“Approved OSP/OSSP”) have made a legal commitment through their Affiliation Agreement with OSCAR EMR to ensure all modifications are given back to the community.

- The OSCAR source files identify the owner of the code who has contributed it freely to the community. **69% of the current OSCAR source code has been contributed by McMaster University, and 20% by CAISI (St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto), both not-for-profit organizations.** The remaining 11% of files have been contributed by a variety of organizations and developers since 2001.

OSCAR – The Validated and Certified Product

OSCAR EMR leads a collaborative network of Approved OSP/OSSPs, OSCAR users and developers that, together, ensure OSCAR is available as a validated and certified product backed by an ISO 13485:2003 certified organization. OSCAR – as an Affiliated Product of OSCAR EMR – is more than the open-source code. It is an EMR responsive to users' diverse requirements that enables their participation in the evolving digital health ecosystem while connecting them with a vibrant and innovative user community working together transparently for continuous improvement of care, services and health.

OSCAR (Affiliated Product) is:

- Ontario EMR Specification 4.1A Funding Eligible Offering
- Canada Health Infoway (J Class, Laboratory and Clinical Documents) Certified
- Verified as IHE Compliant

Standing Together for “True OSCAR”

Over the past year, and particularly in recent months, the OSCAR community in Ontario has experienced significant turmoil related to the choices and communications of Indivica.

- Indivica has taken freely of, and benefited substantially from, what has been contributed for greater good primarily by not-for-profit organizations.
- Indivica made a legal commitment in 2012 to comply with OSCAR EMR's ISO 13485:2003 Quality Management System, and has represented to physicians since then that the software installed and supported is the Funding Eligible OSCAR.
- Indivica has not participated in OSCAR EMR's code management processes (bug fixes/feature changes) since August, 2012.
- Indivica has confirmed they have made modifications to the open-source code which are contained in the software program distributed to their customers, but they have not made the modified source code or corresponding software program available in accordance with the terms of the GPL V2+ license governing the OSCAR code.
- Indivica's ethical and legal obligation is to cease their attack on the community and the public good that is OSCAR and, instead, work with OSCAR EMR to resolve any concerns. **A decision not to work together is a decision against OSCAR and all that it stands for, a decision that makes physicians hostage to Indivica's actions that violate the OSCAR community.**

OSCAR EMR remains open to working with Indivica for the benefit of all. We invite all OSCAR users to stand with us for “True OSCAR”, encouraging Indivica to make the choice to collaborate for the good of all affected physicians.

For more information, please contact info@oscar-emr.com.