

Leading EMR Adopter Program (LEAP) – FAQs

Data

Is NCG-KCDO envisaging common data models across the 6 empaneled EMR platforms?

Yes. Work is already underway to define the data dictionary that will specify the minimum data requirements to be captured across all empaneled EMR platforms.

If we have an existing EMR can the data from the previous EMR be ported to the new solution?

Theoretically, yes. However, it will depend on the integration of the new EMR with the old EMR solution. This could also mean mapping the backend of the existing solution to the new EMR solution's backend.

For the data warehouse is there a plan for harmonization to match international registries?

Data dictionary will be prepared and released by NCG -KCDO and all efforts will be taken to match it with the requirements of national and international registries.

Will data sharing become less challenging for research and development purposes with the empanelment of these 6 empaneled vendors?

Data sharing even in an anonymized form will require consent from the respective hospitals. However, once the consent is in place, data sharing for research purposes will be easier as the data models will be consistent across empaneled vendors.

How can the data be retrieved from the entries and in which format?

Data can be retrieved in various formats from all the 6 empaneled EMRS including excel spreadsheets, word format etc.

Is there any feature to be able to transfer data for statistical analysis without the need for separate documentation?

There will be a standard set of reports and analytics as part of each empaneled vendor's solution available to the hospital for research and administrative purposes.

Technology

For hospitals using Varian medical system's EMR for radiation oncology. Is it possible to integrate it with the 6 empaneled EMRs? We have an existing EMR in the hospital. Is it possible to integrate the NCG oncology module to our existing one?

This will depend on the technical feasibility of the two systems and will need to be discussed with the EMR vendors as part of the evaluation process.

If we already have a working EMR in our hospital, can the NCG-KCDO empaneled EMRs supplement it rather than replacing it? Is integration with the existing EMR feasible without much redundancy?

This will depend on the technical feasibility of the two systems and will need to be discussed with the EMR vendors as part of the evaluation process.

Do all the 6 empaneled vendors have FHIR interface/resources that can be published? Or is it only HL/7?

All empaneled vendors are HL7 compliant but may or may not have FHIR as of today. NCG-KCDO plans to form a subcommittee on interoperability that will work on defining the technical standards such as FHIR that will be required to be implemented by all empaneled EMR vendors.

Will data get saved in the cloud or a server installed in the hospital?

Data can either be hosted on an in-prem server or the cloud - the choice is yours

What are the guidelines in place to ensure patient privacy and confidentiality of data?

All the 6 empaneled EMRs adhere to the best in the industry standards on privacy and security standards including but not limited to automatic log-off, access control, access privileges, audit log, integrity, encryption etc.

Clinical Modules

Do the 6 empaneled EMRs provide oncology specific modules?

Yes. They all cover Oncology specific modules and are open to further customization.

All six empaneled EMRs already cover ~70% of the 200+ NER features that NCG has specified including oncology specific features. Some features are being developed and will be ready in the next 6-12 months. The centres that adopt a particular vendor now will get the additionally developed features as per the NER at no extra cost.

Have you published the list of features that the evaluation was based on? If yes, where can I find it?

Pls visit the NCG -KCDO website to find the NCG EMR Requirements (NER) - <https://www.kcdo.in/src/pdf/ngc-emr-requirements-ner.pdf?06092023>

Do these EMR's include CPOE as well???

Yes. Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) will be a functionality available in all the 6 empaneled EMRs.

Will staging be covered, and will there be a link to NCCN guidelines to assist the practitioner in their decision making?

TNM staging will be a feature in all the 6 empaneled vendors. The platinum list of features envisages to link NCG cancer guidelines to assist the physicians while using these EMRs.

Do the empaneled EMRs cover OP and IP modules/features?

Both OP and IP modules are available in all the 6 empaneled EMRs.

General

Can we upload existing data /scanned records in the new EMR? Is uploading manual records or pdfs a feature in all the 6 empaneled EMRs? Is it possible to evaluate scanned data?

Yes. Uploading manual records or pdfs is included as part of the feature set of all 6 empaneled EMRs. Digitization of manual/ hardcopy records will need to be discussed on a case-to-case basis.

Are we allowed to choose the vendor outside the list of NCG-KCDO empaneled EMR vendors?

You are completely free to choose any vendor outside the 6 empaneled EMR vendors. However, NCG will not work directly with these vendors to develop the oncology specific EMR and provide any funding for deployment of the EMR.

Can we interact with vendors for better understanding of each of the products and for some technical brainstorming?

Yes, we encourage you to interact with each of the 6 empaneled vendors to understand their solution and capabilities in more detail.

Is there a SAAS model available with any of the vendors for EMR?

SaaS model is available with all the 6 empaneled EMR vendors. Annual subscription and one-time perpetual license options are also available.

Can NCG-KCDO help the member centres to evaluate the service contract with the EMR vendor? Also help in penalizing the vendor if they breach contract.

NCG-KCDO will be happy to assist any member centres in evaluating the service contract with the EMR vendor. The contract will be between the member center and the EMR vendor so any obligations regarding breach of contract should be specified in the contract.

Also, all the 6 empaneled EMR vendors will be continuously evaluated and monitored by the NCG -KCDO team. Those who do not deliver as per the agreement will be de-empaneled if corrective measures are not taken by the concerned vendor.

For the hospitals where workload is more, will there be an option for a data entry person/nurse to fill in data? Considering the vast variation of IT solutions, to what degree are the empaneled EMRs user friendly.

Having a data entry person/nurse to fill in data is a decision the management of the hospital should take. What we can assure is that all the 6 empaneled EMRs are very user friendly with auto populated data, voice to text, drop downs and other features which will make data entry simple and efficient.

I understand that there is a possibility of partial funding from NCG. What is the probable ratio that NCG and the hospital might be sharing?

To support the member centres which are owned by the Government and Trusts, NCG-KCDO has decided to provide partial funding subject to achieving certain milestones. The funding is dependent on various factors including but not limited to hospital type, size, total cost, etc.. Please refer to the Leading EMR Adopter Program (LEAP) for further details. <https://www.kcdo.in/news/ngc-kcdo-emr-Initiative.htm>

Where can I find the word format of the RFP document?

You can download the document from the KCDO website <https://www.kcdo.in/news/ngc-kcdo-emr-Initiative.htm>

We have just implemented a new EMR. We have implemented phase 1 so is there any way we can get the same EMR refined as per the NER requirements.

If the EMR implemented at your institution is one among the 6 empaneled EMRs by NCG-KCDO, we can help you in refining the EMR based on the NER requirements. For EMRs outside of these 6 empaneled EMR vendors, NCG-KCDO will not be able to directly engage with such vendors however the vendors can refer to the NER requirements for the needed refinement.

<https://www.kcdo.in/src/pdf/ngc-emr-requirements-ner.pdf?06092023>

What is the training and learning curve going to be like?

It is expected to take 3-6 months of training and learning for successful adoption of EMRs depending on the size of the hospital staff and their adaptability to technology. NCG-KCDO team will organize regular webinars and training sessions to sensitize all the member centres. Along with this, the empaneled vendors will deploy teams who will continue to provide on-ground training and on-going training for the healthcare professionals.

Do you comply with ICD 10/11?

Yes, all the 6 empaneled EMRs comply with ICD 10/11.

Will NCG take any commitment from the centres who wish to use the EMR? Like contribution to PBCRs, involvement in collaborative research based on their capability, adoption of NCG guidelines as these are important to achieve the core objective of NCG?

For hospitals that receive funding from NCG, they will be required to commit to certain milestones related to EMR adoption, ABDM compliance and sharing of anonymized data to a central database for research purposes. For hospitals that don't receive funding from NCG, the above commitments will be encouraged but not mandatory. Regular reports and updates on progress are expected from all participating NCG centres.

Can clinical templates be customized based on the hospital requirements? Can some elements of the modules be customized to local needs of the Department /Centre?

Yes, customization is possible and should be discussed with the vendors during the selection process including any additional costs involved.

What will be the cost of Silver/ Gold/Platinum category EMR solutions?

The pricing of the empaneled EMR solutions is not available to be shared publicly. However, NCG-KCDO will share a reference pricing to all the member centres who submit a letter of interest to empanel the NCG-KCDO empaneled EMRs.

Do the empaneled EMRs support PACS?

All the 6 empaneled EMRs support PACS, however individual PACS solution integration will need to be discussed on a case by case basis.

Is SNOMED CT a requirement within the EMR?

Yes.

A major hurdle would be quality data entry. will that be supervised initially?

All the 6 empaneled EMRs will have inbuilt features in place to ensure quality data capturing, for example, drop down options, reference limits for clinical values, error warnings etc. NCG- KCDO will organize webinars on data quality along with detailing minimum data set that will ensure efficient and high-quality capturing of clinical and administrative data.

We have an existing EMR solution in place, but if we wish to identify the gaps in the existing solution based on the NCG NER, how can we start the process?

You can start the process by mapping the features in your existing EMR solution against the NCG-KCDO NER. Please visit the NCG-KCDO website to download the NCG EMR Requirements (NER) - <https://www.kcdo.in/src/pdf/ngc-emr-requirements-ner.pdf?06092023>

Do we need to connect with the NCG-KCDO team or directly with empaneled vendors to initiate the EMR adoption process?

We suggest that the member centres who are looking for funding support (Government and Trust centres) should submit a letter of interest to NCC-KCDO to initiate the process. You can find the template for the letter of interest in this link.

<https://www.kcdo.in/src/pdf/ngc-emr-requirements-ner.pdf?06092023>.

Others can directly approach the empaneled EMR vendors to initiate the selection process. Please visit the link below for further information.

<https://www.kcdo.in/news/ngc-kcdo-emr-Initiative.htm>

Will adoption of any of the 6 EMR's help us get rid of physical record keeping required for the NABH purposes?

The 6 empaneled EMRs will help the member centers capture many of the NABH related data and comply with the NABH 1st Edition Digital Health Standards. However, at this stage, we would suggest the hospitals maintain all the records as prescribed by NABH and in a phased manner move to digital records along with getting accredited to NABH Digital Health Standards.