What does it mean to be interoperable?
Interoperability is the ability of different information technology systems and software applications to seamlessly communicate, exchange data and use the information that has been exchanged.

What are the benefits of EHR interoperability?
Data transfer allowed by EHR interoperability ensures the right data is available at the right time to the right people. This creates opportunities for improved coordination and workflows by eliminating redundancies, and ultimately better care management of patient populations.

Are OhioHealth Group Clinically Integrated Network (CIN) practices required to implement an interoperable EHR?
Yes. OhioHealth Group CIN practices are required to implement an interoperable EHR by January 1, 2020. It is important to begin considering your options for interoperability early, as EHR implementation can be a lengthy process with associated costs.

What will happen if my practice does not implement an interoperable EHR by January 1, 2020?
OhioHealth Group CIN practices who do not implement an interoperable solution by January 1, 2020 will be terminated from the network, unless they are actively engaged with our implementation team.

Why are OhioHealth Group CIN practices required to have an interoperable EHR?
In order to succeed under risk-based contracts, we must effectively coordinate care by being able to respond to clinical information about our patient populations in a nimble and timely manner. To do this, the claims data we have traditionally used must be combined with real-time information from each patient’s medical record; this will help craft a comprehensive clinical depiction of the patient. By fully understanding the health status of our patient populations we will be better equipped to design meaningful strategies, programs and interventions that efficiently improve the health of patients and support network providers.

What kind of data will OhioHealth Group extract from my EHR?
Information extracted from your EHR includes clinical data from each OhioHealth Group CIN patient’s medical record, such as demographics, problem lists, vital signs, medications, allergies and more.
**How will my EHR data be used by OhioHealth Group?**

Your OhioHealth Group CIN patients’ data will be combined with claims data to craft a comprehensive clinical depiction of each patient population managed by the network. This will allow OhioHealth Group to analyze where the network can have the greatest impact on care delivery to our patients. This may include interventions to enhance utilization, clinical quality or care coordination. You may see this in the form of new initiatives/programs, workgroups, educational events and other communication vehicles where we will discuss how, together, we can improve the health of patient populations we serve.

**Do I need to inform my patients about our system’s interoperability and how their data is being used?**

The OhioHealth Group CIN Participating Practitioner Group Agreement your practice signed requires that you modify your notice of privacy practices to disclose your participation in the OhioHealth Group CIN, which is considered an “Organized Healthcare Arrangement” under HIPAA. The statement indicates that you may disclose PHI to other participants in the organized healthcare arrangement in order to facilitate OhioHealth Group CIN activities.

OhioHealth Group’s legal team has prepared the paragraph below, which you can copy and paste into your existing notice of privacy practices:

*We participate in an organized healthcare arrangement through OhioHealth Group, Ltd. (the OhioHealth Group Clinically Integrated Network (CIN)). The OhioHealth Group CIN consists of an organized system of healthcare in which multiple covered entities participate. Through the OhioHealth Group CIN, we participate in joint activities that include utilization review, quality assessment and improvement activities, and certain payment activities. We may disclose your PHI to other participants in this organized healthcare arrangement in order to facilitate the healthcare operations activities of the OhioHealth Group CIN.*

A full sample “Notice of Privacy Practices” is available [here](#).

**What are my options to meet the interoperability requirement?**

OhioHealth Group CIN practices have three options to ensure their Electronic Health Record is interoperable. The first option is [OhioHealth Community Connect](#), an Epic product that allows practices with an Electronic Health Record to seamlessly connect to OhioHealth's Electronic Health Record. The second option is [Carequality](#) is a public-private, multi-stakeholder collaborative that has come together to meet the challenge of sharing data among healthcare providers. The third option is [Clinisync](#), a nonprofit Health Information Exchange that facilitates the sharing of patient records between providers, hospitals and health systems throughout Ohio. All options offer different advantages depending on your practice’s unique situation.

**Why were OhioHealth Community Connect, Carequality and Clinisync selected?**

This past year, we performed extensive evaluations of the options available to accomplish network-wide interoperability. These three solutions were selected for their superior care coordination and reporting capabilities.
How do I know which option is right for my practice? Is there a preferred solution?

Only you can decide which option is best for your practice, but our team can help guide your decision-making process by connecting you with the right information and resources to make an informed decision. For assistance, please contact Karina Magaziner-Rubin at (614) 246.1467 or Karina.Magaziner-Rubin@OhioHealth.com.

I already have an EHR. How do I know if it is interoperable?

To check if your EHR is interoperable, please contact Karina Magaziner-Rubin at (614) 246.1467 or Karina.Magaziner-Rubin@OhioHealth.com. EHRs that are interoperable in conjunction with Carequality include Allscripts, Aprima, Athena Health, Cerner, eClinical Works, e-MDs, GE Centricity, Greenway, Kareo, NextGen, Modernizing Medicine and Meditech. EHRs that are interoperable in conjunction with Clinisync include Athenahealth, Centricity GE, eClinicalWorks, NextGen HealthCare, Allscripts, Aprima and Greenway.

My practice is looking at an EHR now. What should I do?

Please contact Karina Magaziner-Rubin at (614) 246.1467 or Karina.Magaziner-Rubin@OhioHealth.com.

I have questions not addressed by this FAQ. Who should I contact?

Please contact Karina Magaziner-Rubin at (614) 246.1467 or Karina.Magaziner-Rubin@OhioHealth.com.