

Question	Answer
What is OTObase?	OTObase is a simplified easy-to use patient management module that among other things allows integration directly with EMR systems.
Why did we make OTObase?	Integration is one of the most consistent trends we see today within audiology. There is an extreme focus on cost and efficiency and to this end the US government has enacted reductions in reimbursement where medical records are not saved electronically. But what we believe really drives this trend is the audiology professional's desire to streamline the workflow - and through that get more time with what really matters: the patients. To help make EMR integration accessible to more of our customers, Otometrics has developed OTObase.
What is EMR/EHR? And what is the difference?	EMR stands for Electronic medical Record . EHR stands for Electronic Health Record . While an EMR holds the results from one practice or department, an EHR is designed to contain and share information from all providers involved in a patient's care. You do, however, normally not distinguish between the two terms, and since far more people (and providers) use the term EMR for both types of systems, we are doing this as well in our communication. EMR is googled four times more often than EHR.
What is EMR integration?	EMR integration means in this case that the system used in the audiology clinic or department is connected to the hospital-wide EMR system so patient information can be transferred from the EMR system to e.g. OTOsuite and the results - after the test has been done - can be transferred to the EMR system.
What are the advantages of EMR integration?	EMR integration... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates manual entry of patient data and reduces risk of human errors • Gives immediate access to test results on any PC on the EMR network • Eliminates printing, scanning and other manual handling of test results and reports • Improves thereby the workflow - and gives more time for patients • Allows full Medicare Reimbursement also after 2015
What are the advantages of OTObase?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With OTObase there is no need for a local patient management system (like AudBase) if scheduling etc. is done in the EMR system. • With OTObase, EMR integration is because of that very easy to get, to learn and to use • Complete tests are available on any PC in the EMR network with OTObase and the software that was used for the test installed (e.g. OTOsuite) • With OTObase there is practically no limitation in use of instruments and fitting software (they just need to be Noah compatible)
The US government has mandated that medical records must be saved electronically. What is that about?	For physicians who either have not adopted certified EHR / EMR systems or cannot demonstrate "meaningful use" by the EMR deadline in 2015, Medicare reimbursements will be reduced by 1%. The deduction rate increases in subsequent years by 2% in 2016, 3% in 2017, 4% in 2018, and up to 95% depending on future adjustments.
Does OTObase work with or replace our present patient management system?	If you already have a patient management system that can be integrated with your hospital-wide EMR system and are satisfied with it, you will not need OTObase. It will in this case typically be better to make the EMR integration through this system. But if you do not already have such a "local" patient management system and you plan to handle scheduling etc. in the hospital-wide EMR system you can in many cases use OTObase instead of a complete patient management system.
Does OTObase have features like billing, scheduling, statistics, comment list and spell check on comments?	No, OTObase does not itself have these features. If it is vital for you that you have these features in your local system (e.g. because your EMR system does not provide it), a full size local patient management system is probably a better solution for you. We will be happy to arrange that type of solution as well.
Does it work with Noah or does it replace Noah?	It works with Noah, but will also in some cases replace it. Noah is a standard that ensures smooth exchange of audiology data between programs and systems. But there is also a small standalone patient management system (the so called Noah System). With OTObase, data will not be stored in a Noah database but in a database managed by OTObase. But if you are using fitting software this will share data with OTObase using the communication part of Noah, the so called Noah Engine.
I have all my patients in a Noah database. What do I do?	With OTObase comes a special program that allows easy migration from your Noah database. The migration will be done as part of the OTObase installation.

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What is HL7?	HL7 stands for "Health Level 7". It is a communication standard very widely used in the health care sector.
What EMR/EHR systems does HL7 work with?	As most, if not all, mid- to large scale EMR system vendors use HL7 it will be possible to connect to all these systems. The first time we integrate to a vendor's EMR system, expect some additional time for integration.
Does OTObase only work with OTOSuite and Otometrics instruments? I have some equipment from other suppliers, will it work with them?	If Noah engine is installed on your PC, OTObase will not only work with OTOSuite compatible instruments but also all other Noah compatible instruments and systems.
Does OTObase work with ICS/Balance?	OTObase integrates the Noah world but as ICS/Balance is not part of that, OTObase does not work with ICS/ Balance in this version.
Does it work with AccuScreen and AccuLink?	AccuScreen/AccuLink do not integrate with OTObase as they are outside the OTOSuite and Noah worlds.
Does it work with Fitting Software?	Yes, OTObase works with fitting software – as they use Noah format. You just need to have Noah engine installed as well.
What kind of information will go into the EMR?	In the EMR system there will be placed... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a hyperlink that on PCs with OTObase and the software used for the test (e.g. OTOSuite) will open the test in this software • a PDF report readable on any PC on the EMR network (with a PDF reader) • plus the information that the ordered test has been carried out.
Is OTObase HIPAA compliant?	Yes, OTObase facilitates HIPAA compliance.
I would like to get EMR integrated. What do I do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out who in your institution is the point of contact for EMR/EHR integration. • Let us know that you are interested in EMR integration and who the EMR contact is. • Together with your IT and EMR provider, we will draft a plan and estimate the cost. • You submit a small project application – we can make it with you if you like (whether this is needed and when may differ between institutions). • The EMR provider will then set up their interface to match OTObase and we will install our software and set it up according to your wishes and workflow. • Finally, after a short test period, you and the rest of the involved team are trained – and ready to work efficiently.