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Importing EHR Data into CAREWare
A Standard, Automated Method
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Many agencies that use CAREWare also manage a commercial electronic health record (EHR). We have developed a standardized, automated process that imports data from the EHR into CAREWare and eliminates most duplicate data entry. This document provides an overview of how this system imports HL7 data through the socket interface.

What is the CAREWare HL7 Socket Interface?
The HL7 Socket interface monitors and processes real-time HL7 feeds sent by many large EHRs. When CAREWare is configured to monitor these feeds and map the incoming data, it automatically can import labs, demographics, appointments, and services, eliminating the need for double entry.

Currently CAREWare can be configured to process feeds from EHR systems like Cerner Millennium and Epic. However, since the HL7 specification is standard across most platforms, it should require little or no additional development to enable HL7 imports from other EHRs.

The interface consists of a separate Socket application that can listen for and receive the feeds and temporarily store HL7 messages in the "holding tank," a set of tables in the CAREWare database. CAREWare has features that can process messages stored in the holding tank and import them as CAREWare records according to user configured mappings.

What data can CAREWare process from the HL7 Socket Interface?
- Demographics
- Labs, Screening Labs, and Screenings
- Hospitalization Records
- Appointments
- Services
- Diagnoses

- Referrals
- Immunizations

What is required to implement the interface?
- An EHR capable of sending CAREWare an HL7 feed
- IT resources for configuring and monitoring the feed

What are the first steps?
- Using the technical support resources provided by your EHR, research the HL7 export capabilities of the EHR. Most EHRs provide a message processing implementation guide or something similar.
- Design a plan to match feeds with existing CAREWare feed monitoring options (see the list of data processed by the interface, above).
- Configure CAREWare to process the feeds properly.

How can I get help?
jProg developed the HL7 Socket Interface under projects supported by CAREWare-using service providers. jProg is distributing the Socket component and basic documentation to CAREWare users, and other important, related new features are already part of CAREWare.

The CAREWare Help Desk can support HL7 Socket Interface implementation and operation. To learn about additional support and consultation provided by jProg, contact Bill Devlin by email: billdevlin@jprog.com .

How does it work?
The diagram on the next page summarizes the data flow process.

CAREWare HL7 Socket Interface Data Flow

EHR

EHR Sends HL7 Document to Socket

Socket sends ACK to EHR

HL7 Socket Server

Store in HL7 Socket holding tank

HL7 Socket Holding Tank

CAREWare gets documents and imports according to mappings

CAREWare