Clinic Guide to Connecting with Connie

Now that you have completed the legal onboarding process for connecting with Connie, the next step is to complete the integration with your EHR. If your EHR does not have a direct integration with Connie, is too expensive, or is difficult to work with, Henry Schein can help. With our integration solution, Smartlink Data Connector (SDC), your integration with Connie will be done in a matter of weeks and without any EHR vendor involvement.

How does SDC work?

SDC is a cloud-based integration solution that leverages the user interface (UI) of your EHR to exchange data with the HIE. You'll simply set up user credentials for SDC the same way you do for a remote user. The software will be programmed to automatically login to your EHR on a nightly basis, just like a remote user. It will follow preprogrammed instructions to extract and send the data you've agreed to share with Connie.

How is this different than a traditional EHR integration via API or HL7?

It's really not any different. An interface is an interface, whether it's a user interface or an API interface. Both interfaces require a set of user credentials to access the EHR. SDC will share the same data that would be shared via any other integration method, it just does it through the UI. This approach overcomes EHR vendor limitations, is typically more affordable, and provides a complete audit trail of the data that has been shared.

What do we have to do to complete the integration?

In order to complete the integration, the SDC software will be programmed with a unique (not shared) set of connectivity (usually a URL or a VPN Client) and role-based user credentials for your EHR. Once the appropriate level of access is confirmed, there is nothing else that you need to do. SDC will be configured to automate the exchange of data with Connie and, once complete, we'll coordinate a Go Live date. The process takes an average of four weeks.

What level of credentials do we need to provide?

The software will need the same type of access that your staff would need in order to check a patient's data from home. This may include a client Virtual Private Network (VPN) for on-premise systems or a URL for web based systems. It also requires a User ID and Password with security roles equivalent of an "auditor" or "chart auditor".

Will there be an impact to our EHR?

No. The volume of data being shared is too small to impact network or system performance.

Is this a secure platform?

Yes. The Smartlink platform is SOC2 compliant. It is hosted on Amazon Cloud and uses Amazon's HIPAA/HITRUST compliant services. The solution has been used in over five hundred integrations nationwide and with many HIEs.

Do I need to call my EHR vendor?

No. Since SDC utilizes the UI, vendor involvement is not necessary.

How much does it cost?

The one-time integration fee of $5300 can be paid in 12 monthly payments through Henry Schein Financial Solutions. The annual maintenance fee of $2050 can be paid monthly, and the first year can also be rolled into the financing.