



### **Integrated Solution**

Integrated software is composed of application modules that are purchased from a single vendor, (i.e., billing, PM, lab ordering). An example of an integrated solution is Microsoft Office, which integrates Word with Excel and permits the seamless sharing of data.

<b>Pros</b>	<b>Cons</b>
Single Database	Some modules (i.e. PM) might not be as robust as currently used software
Information is available in all modules as soon as it is entered	Loss of investment in previously used software packages, such as PM
All applications have similar look and feel	
Reports are less complicated to write because you are only accessing one database	
Usually less expensive due to one software being purchased instead of two separate software packages	
Only one software to provide technical support	

### **Interfaced Solution**

The ability to allow software packages purchased from separate vendors, such as your Practice Management System and an EHR package to interact and share data. The interaction can take place in one of two ways either one-way or bi-directional.

- *Middle-ware* is the software that acts as an intermediary between different software packages to allow interfacing.
- *Bi-directional interfacing* refers to the ability for interfaced software packages to share data in two directions, (i.e. patient demographics can flow from PM to the EHR as well as allowing the coding to flow from your EHR to the PM)
- *One-way interfacing* is the inability to perform bi-directional flow (i.e. patient demographics can flow from your PM but your EHR cannot flow information to your PM).

Pros	Cons
Ability to keep current PM	Multiple Databases
No learning curve for new software	Possible additional hardware and/or software purchases
Have the ability to mix and match software packages to get the best fit	Possible delay of information exchange between PM and EHR
	Additional maintenance for each software program
	If one software package is upgraded might lose ability to interface without additional costs or programming