

Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Service Continuity Pilot: Frequently Asked Questions

January 2015

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the OTP Service Continuity Pilot are provided as a resource to potential pilot applicants.

1. General Webinar Questions

Q: Will the pilot PowerPoint presentation slides from the informational webinars that took place January 14 & 20 be made available?

A: Yes, a PDF of the slide deck was distributed to all registered attendees following both webinars. In addition, the slide deck will be posted to the SAMHSA website.

Q: Did I have to attend an informational webinar to be eligible to submit an application?

A: No. Webinar attendance is not mandatory to submit an application. However, those who were not able to attend one of the webinars live are strongly encouraged to view one of the webinar recordings (links to webinar recordings will be disseminated through the OTPDemo listserv).

Q: Who can I contact with additional questions about the webinar and/or the pilot?

A: Additional questions should be directed to Dina Passman, SAMHSA Public Health Advisor, at otpdemo@feisystems.com.

2. Pilot Timeline & Overview

Q: What is the objective of this service continuity pilot?

A: SAMHSA's objective is to facilitate patients' ability to share specific opioid treatment information in cases of care discontinuity in a manner that is sensitive to privacy concerns under 42 CFR Part 2 regulations, through an HIE organization. The pilot project focuses on the exchange of OTP client information related to dosing, along with associated patient demographic information (in order to confirm the client's identity).

Q: How many pilot teams will be funded?

A: SAMHSA will fund one pilot team.

Q: How will the winning applicant team be selected?

A: A review committee will be convened to review the applications.

Q: Is this a multi-year grant award?

A: No. The grant award is for fiscal year (FY) 2015 only. Applicants should present their solution without the expectation of receiving a follow-up award from SAMHSA.

Q: What level of funding will be provided to the awardee to fund the pilot?

A: The selected pilot team will be awarded \$375,000 (funded through 9/30/2015).

Q: Should the pilot awardee anticipate any benefits in addition to the monetary award?

A: FEi Systems will offer tailored technical assistance and training to the awarded team.

Q: When will the Request for Applications (RFA) be made available?

A: The RFA will be made available on February 15, 2015.

Q: How can I access the application once it is released?

A: Once released, the pilot applications will be disseminated to all individuals who attended an informational webinar. In addition, the pilot application will be posted on the SAMHSA website.

Q: When are electronic submissions of pilot applications due?

A: Pilot applications must be submitted no later than March 15, 2015.

Q: When will the winning awardee be selected and notified?

A: The winning awardee will be announced no later than April 15, 2015.

3. Pilot Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to submit an application?

A: HIEs and OTPs are eligible to submit applications. All applicants must include a participating HIE organization and OTPs as part of their solution.

Q: Are both state and local HIEs eligible to apply?

A: Yes, both are eligible to apply and win the award.

Q: Is the pilot project focused solely on OTP client dosing, i.e. no other clinical services?

A: Yes, the pilot project focuses on the exchange of information related to dosing.

Q: What types of patient demographic information will be transmitted along with the dosing information?

A: The exact demographic data to be transmitted have not yet been finalized. However, likely variables include the client's name, date of birth, and a unique identifier.

Q: Do the OTPs need to use different EHR systems?

A: The pilot project requires the utilization of two separate (unique) systems that are not currently interoperable. Use of EHRs is not a requirement for pilot applicants (e.g., OTPs may use medication management systems (MMS) capable of communication with a HIE). The systems can be from the same vendor, however.

Q: What integration work will be required for the pilot?

A: The following integration work will be required:

- Integration of HIE Infrastructure with OTP Provider EHR and/or MMS;
- Integration of Consent Management Solution with HIE Infrastructure; and
- Integration of Consent Management Solution with OTP Provider EHR and/or MMS.

4. Content2Share Questions

Q: Is use of the 'Consent2Share' (C2S) tool required for this pilot?

A: No, use of Consent2Share is not required for this pilot; it is an example of software that could be used during the pilot. If the HIE uses alternative consent software, that can be used as well. C2S was discussed as it is already developed, useable, and customizable.

Q: Will preference be given to applications that utilize C2S technology? How much detail must be included in the application about use of a consent tool other than C2S?

A: No, preference will not be given to applications that propose use of C2S software. However, the applicant will be required to go into significant detail about the consent software that will be used.

Q: Is there a fee to utilize the C2S software?

A: No, there is no fee to utilize the C2S software. C2S is an open-source software tool.

5. Role of FEi Systems as Pilot Implementation and TA Lead

Q: What is the purpose of the subcontract with FEi Systems? How will subcontract awards be administered to the awarded applicant team?

A: The funding for this pilot award (\$375,000) will be transferred to the awardee team through a subcontract with FEi Systems. The funding is being derived from the Behavioral Health Information Technologies and Standards (BHITS) contract, for which FEi Systems is the prime contractor.

Q: What services will FEi Systems be providing?

A: In addition to administering the subcontract with the awarded applicant team, FEi Systems will provide general technical assistance support based on the awardee team's requests and needs.