Guide for the New and Curious

Why Join?

Thank you for your interest in joining the global OpenMRS Community! We’re made up of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and skill sets, from development to translation, to create and maintain solutions to various countries’ problems, as shown below. This is an open source project where your code, documents, QA testing, and translations can literally help save lives. Your contributions help OpenMRS improve health care delivery in resource-constrained environments.

This page will help you get started by joining our communication channels and finding the right project team or squad that you want to contribute towards. Whether you are looking for a short-term project or to grow your contribution and skills over the long term, we hope this guide gives you the information you need to join the community and get started.

1. Learn about OpenMRS

If you've spent some time on our website or our Wiki, you've likely heard a lot about how OpenMRS is transforming medical record digitalization. However, take a little more time and learn about how we operate as a collaborative global network through these helpful guides:

- Community Conventions
- Decision Making Playbook
- OpenMRS Code of Conduct

2. Sign up for Communication Channels

With a global network of members, staying connected digitally is important. Follow these quick steps to get set up on all our relevant communication channels. Different groups and teams may use different platforms, so learn about their differences with our Communication Channels guide. Then, come back here and go through the following steps to begin receiving access and meeting core OpenMRS members.

1. Sign up for an OpenMRS ID - this is a key step for participating in the community.
2. For real-time or near real-time communication, you can find us on the following platforms. Slack and Telegram are both synced with our IRC channel, so no need to join all three! (Note these are more developer-centric, but everyone is welcome)
   a. Join the OpenMRS Slack
   b. Join #OpenMRS on irc.freenode.net
   c. Join the OpenMRS Telegram channel
3. Sign into our Community Forum, OpenMRS Talk, with your OpenMRS ID. Introduce yourself to other members of the community! If you're new to Discourse, click on your first notification to begin the interactive tutorial.
4. Make yourself familiar with the OpenMRS Wiki, or bookmark it for later!

3. Meet the Teams

OpenMRS is made up of teams whose work is crucial to routine and long-term community activities, projects, and/or modules. Our teams draw on a wide range of abilities and skills. Read more about our current teams and find your fit!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy and Operations</th>
<th>QA Support</th>
<th>Technical Action Committee</th>
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</thead>
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The Strategy and Operations Team provides overall governance of our community and operations. That includes community conventions, budget planning, collaboration with third parties, and upholding community values.

If you’re interested in helping the strategic direction of OpenMRS, come learn more about us. All are welcome.

Strategy and Operations Team Home Page

Healthcare systems demand reliable software, so we must always focus on testing OpenMRS code. Whether or not you’re a developer, consider helping us test OpenMRS Releases.

QA Support Team Wiki

The Technical Action Committee (TAC) oversees OpenMRS’ overall technical and system architecture. Their goal is to ensure our software products are built and released correctly.

Anyone is free to contribute to TAC starting with participating in weekly team calls.

Technical Action Committee Home Page

The OpenMRS community is a dense and interlinking web of collaborators. To help stay organized and ensure anticipated milestones are being met, the Project Management Team helps ensure everyone is on schedule.

Project Management Team Wiki

The OpenMRS project has been around several years now, and our source code repository contains over 6 million lines of code. That makes for a lot of documentation. Some of that documentation is good, some of it needs help, and some of it’s missing.

That’s where you come in.

Do you love writing? Enjoy organizing? Like information architecture or project management? We can use your help.

Documentation Team Wiki

The Global Events team is responsible for bringing the OpenMRS community together, globally and locally, in-person or virtually.

Our primary purpose is organizing the annual Implementer’s Meeting, from developing the budget to planning individual events.

If you have a passion for event planning, we can use your enthusiasm and skill.

Global Events Team Wiki

Squads

Looking for a short-term or a more focused commitment? Squads are smaller groups working on discrete/time-limited community activities, projects, and modules. Squads are supported by Teams, which perform more general work. Here are the primary Squads looking for contributors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Squad</th>
<th>Project(s) (with Jira links)</th>
<th>Looking for</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microfrontends &amp; 3.0 Frontend Squad</td>
<td>Microfrontends Architecture - Extensible, configurable and independently deployable frontend features. Get your frontend live and updated fast. Frontend architecture designed for extensible and configurable apps and widgets. and Next Generation Frontend for OpenMRS (&quot;OpenMRS 3.0&quot;) - re-doing the frontend with Carbon Design System and new workflows and functionality (e.g. labs, orders) • For everyone: Latest Designs • For PMs/BAs/UX Designers: Meet our Sample Patients: Agnes, Billy, and Candice. Intended for use as clinical content in designs and user experience workflow planning.</td>
<td>• Frontend developers with web development or specifically React experience (microfrontend experience is a plus though not required) • UX Designers</td>
<td>Grace Potma &amp; Jonathan Dick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytics Engine (including ETL and reporting improvement)</td>
<td>Analytics Engine MVP - Tools for transforming OpenMRS data into a FHIR based warehouse</td>
<td>• Data Scientists or other technical folks with an interest in data extraction and transformation at scale • Implementations that want to try out or pilot our MVP ETL for HIV data extraction</td>
<td>allan kimaina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OpenMRS Dictionary Management (OC L for OpenMRS)</td>
<td>OpenMRS Dictionary Management - A front-end for organizations to manage, edit, and share medical terminologies. • Latest Demo of the product we’re building/improving</td>
<td>• Product Manager or BA • Developers with React experience or committed to growing their React skills</td>
<td>Grace Potma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HL7 FHIR Squad</td>
<td>The OpenMRS FHIR Squad works on OpenMRS solutions, including the FHIR Module, that support the ability to exchange healthcare data in a widely-used, standards-based format, easing integration with external systems and products.</td>
<td>• Product Manager or BA • Developers</td>
<td>Jennifer Antilla</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Platform & RefApp Maintenance**
Update core platform (the universally shared backend of OpenMRS) and the Reference Application (recommended bundle that creates a frontend) with necessary tech stack updates, bug fixes, and urgent feature requests.
Platform 2.5 Release: Stack Upgrade (learn more)  
Grace Potma  
Daniel Kayiwa

**Website Design**
Help us re-design our website and tell our amazing story!
- Content creators
- Website designers
- Graphic designers
Jennifer Antilla  
Zuzanna Perkowska

**Academy Squad**
Creating and maintaining materials for OpenMRS Academies, hackathons, boot camps, etc.
- Instructional designers
- Facilitators
- Mentors
- Content experts
Jennifer Antilla

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**After I've found a project I want to help, how do I begin contributing?**

Every project will have a home page full of relevant information including meeting times, group members, communication channels, and other helpful links and resources. As some projects operate differently from others, make sure to thoroughly read over their project pages to find the best means of contributing. This can include attending weekly meetings, assisting with documentation, or visiting a project's Jira board.

**5. Bookmark these Community Resources**

**Community Meeting Calendar**
Interested in learning more about any of the teams or squads listed above? Join one of the weekly meetings listed below - click on the links for more information on how to attend.

**Priority Dashboard**

Want to know where the most urgent needs are? These dynamic, draft dashboards shows the top three strategic priorities to achieve our mission, and the status and current needs/gaps of the projects supporting those priorities. While many of these needs/gaps are developer related, these are dynamic, regularly updated pages and those needs can change.

**Community Product Priorities**

**Community Engagement Priorities**

**Project Help**

Want a project suitable for a team, or an adventurous individual? Look at our Available Projects list, and click on the project name for more information and contact information for the project's author and/or mentor.

If you want to work on a new project, we would love to entertain your ideas. To create a new project, either start a topic on OpenMRS Talk to gauge community support or learn if similar projects have been started. When you're ready to move forward, copy the New Project Template into the Unassigned Projects section. You can also share your idea with us in our Discussion Platform and members of our community will be happy to facilitate you.

**Find Help**

If you need extra assistance getting started or finding a way to get involved, please post a topic on our Community Board.