

# Overview of Aura for Ordering Organizations

Through the Aura network, you can connect with organizations that perform lab, imaging, and device-based procedures in a fraction of the time necessary to configure traditional point-to-point ordering interfaces. Connect to a single compendium of orders from each participating performing organization, then easily update your local Epic build to support each order. After that, clinicians can use their existing Epic workflows to send orders to, and receive discrete results from, any performing organization on the network. This lets your clinicians take advantage of the tests, studies, and devices that specialty organizations offer without leaving your Epic system.

Note that while Aura Labs and Aura Devices are available for widespread adoption, Aura Imaging is currently limited to early adopters only.

## Complete a one-time connection

Whether you're using Aura Labs, Aura Imaging, Aura Devices or any combination of the three, you need to connect to the Aura network only once. After setting up the required interfaces for Aura Labs or the interfaces for Devices and Imaging, which share interfaces, you have access to the full library of Aura procedures that are available today and any that are added in the future. Enabling these procedures is much quicker than creating a separate interface for each performing organization. Note that each Aura order you choose to activate requires a separate activation process.

## Order and receive results in familiar workflows

Ordering a procedure over the Aura network is, for the most part, functionally identical to ordering a similar lab test or imaging study at your organization. Clinicians follow their existing workflows to place orders, sending the order, billing information, and any other supporting clinical information to the performing organization over the Aura network. If certain orders require supporting documentation, you can send it along to the performing organization using the Send Order Information activity. Ordering these procedures in Epic minimizes the friction that clinicians experience when placing one of these orders and removes their need to interact with vendor-specific portals or paper order forms—an efficiency gain that can speed up the entire process for patients.

Aura orders often require collecting a lab specimen, performing a scan, or setting up a device. The Aura network supports various methods that slot naturally into the workflow your organization shares with the performing organization, including clinicians collecting a specimen or attaching a monitoring device in-clinic, or the performing organization sending patients a test kit for self-collection or a device to attach themselves. Whether your organization is responsible for specimen collection or device application depends on factors like the performing organization you're working with, the current order, and your preferences.

Performing organizations perform these orders, with regular status updates and the results flowing back to your Epic system automatically and appearing in the patient's chart alongside the results of any other orders, with no downloads or faxes required. These results pass through your result routing and clinicians receive necessary In Basket notifications when their results are ready. For results that require clinicians at your organization to interpret them before finalizing them, such as for wearable cardiac devices, Aura can send the preliminary result back to your physicians for a final interpretation.

## What kind of results can you receive through Aura?

You can currently receive lab test results, discrete genomic variant results, genomic Variant Call Format (VCF) sequencing files, imaging results, and device data through Aura. The format in which these results are delivered might vary, and while most results are populated directly into a patient's chart, some results or portions of results might be sent as PDF documents or in Rich Text Format (RTF).

## Activate new Aura orders

When you decide to activate a new Aura procedure, the process is the same no matter the performing organization:

1. Analysts at your organization create the procedure in your system, just as they would for any other procedure. These are EpicCare Ambulatory or EpicCare Inpatient records, so your organization isn't required to be licensed for specialized applications like Beaker, Radiant, or Cupid. When you create a procedure in your system, you can determine where it appears and which clinicians have access to it. Most performing organizations have created a version of these procedures that you can import as a Turbocharger package to help you get started, separate from the package that contains their organization-specific order information.
2. Your analysts import an Epic-created Turbocharger package that includes the relevant procedure information from the performing organization, which your analysts map to the procedure in your system using the External Orders Mapping activity. This step is what allows orders to be placed in your system and received in the performing organization's system.

## Keep orders up to date with the Content Subscription Platform

You can make the process of activating and updating lab procedures easier and quicker by using Epic's Content Subscription Platform. Without the platform, your staff need to import Turbocharger packages for activating and updating each order manually. When using the platform, you can subscribe to these Turbocharger packages, which automates the import process for non-clinical content and keeps your Aura orders up to date as performing organizations release updates to them, which you should expect to happen regularly. Note that, currently, a separate Turbocharger package with clinical content is required, your analysts might still need to complete the manual mapping process for some records after your system imports a new or updated Aura order, and the Content Subscription Platform can't be used for imaging studies.

The impact of the platform is most noticeable when handling updates to your lab procedures. Say, for example, that a performing organization changes the collection method for a particular test they perform that you order. Without the platform, they have to inform you of the change and an analyst has to manually import the updated

Turbocharger package. With the platform, your system imports Turbochargers for non-clinical content to non-production environments automatically, as joining the platform automatically subscribes you to Aura updates.

### **Select tests from current Aura performing organizations**

You can find a list of organizations that currently offer orders on the Aura network or plan to in the near future on [Epic's Showroom](#).