

ONC Fact Sheet

2015 Edition Health Information Technology (Health IT) Certification Criteria, Base Electronic Health Record (EHR) Definition, and ONC Health IT Certification Program Modifications Final Rule

(The “2015 Edition”)

Overview

The 2015 Edition final rule establishes health IT certification criteria that support patient care, patient participation in care delivery, and electronic exchange of interoperable health information.

In addition, the final rule enhances the ONC Health IT Certification Program by including provisions for more rigorous testing of health IT exchange capabilities, establishing explicit requirements for in-the-field surveillance and transparency of health IT, and by making granular information about certified health IT publicly available through an open data certified health IT product list (CHPL). These steps will improve the reliability of certified health IT and provide more purchasing power to providers.

Highlights of the final rule include:

- **Interoperability:** Improves interoperability by adopting new and updated vocabulary and content standards for the structured recording and exchange of health information, including a Common Clinical Data Set composed primarily of data expressed using adopted standards; and rigorously testing an identified content exchange standard (Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA));
- **Accessibility and Exchange of Data:** Facilitates the accessibility and exchange of data by including enhanced data export, transitions of care, and application programming interface (API) capabilities in the 2015 Edition Base Electronic Health Record (EHR) definition;
- **Health IT Across the Care Continuum:** Establishes a framework that makes the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT Certification Program open and accessible to more types of health IT, including health IT that supports a variety of care and practice settings, various HHS programs, and public and private interests;
- **EHR Incentive Program Requirements:** Supports the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs (EHR Incentive Programs) through the adoption of a set of certification criteria that align with provisions in the EHR Incentive Programs requirements;
- **Health Disparities:** Addresses health disparities by providing certification to standards for

more granular capture of race and ethnicity; for the collection of sexual orientation, gender identity, social, psychological, and behavioral data

- **Data Segmentation of Sensitive Information:** Supports the exchange of sensitive health information through the Data Segmentation for Privacy criteria;
- **Privacy and Security:** Ensures all health IT presented for certification possess the relevant privacy and security capabilities;
- **Patient Safety:** Improves patient safety by applying enhanced user-centered design principles to health IT, enhancing patient matching, requiring relevant patient information to be exchanged (e.g., Unique Device Identifiers), improving the surveillance of certified health IT, and making more information about certified products publicly available and accessible;
- **Reliability and Transparency:** Increases the reliability and transparency of certified health IT through surveillance and disclosure requirements; and
- **Flexibility and Innovation:** Provides health IT developers with more flexibility, opportunities, and time for the innovative, usability-focused development and certification of health IT.