

CURES ACT FINAL RULE

United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) Version Update Process

The USCDI is a standardized set of health data classes and constituent data elements for nationwide, interoperable health information exchange. More information can be found on the [USCDI page](#).

Future versions of USCDI will include new data elements and data classes that advance interoperability, health IT standards, and minimize the burden of use for all users. The [USCDI ONC New Data Element and Class \(ONDEC\) Submission System](#) supports this process.

How does the USCDI version update process work?



Stakeholders submit new data elements and classes in USCDI ONDEC, including information on:

- The use case(s)
- Existing use and exchange
- Applicable standards and technical specifications
- Potential challenges to development and implementation of the data elements

USCDI ONDEC will accept submissions on a continuous basis, but only submissions received by October (subject to change) will be considered for the next version of USCDI.



ONC evaluates and assigns each data element to one of the following levels depending on the overall value, maturity and challenges to implementation:

- **Comment** – Data element is represented by health care standard terminology such as SNOMED CT or implementation specifications such as HL7® FHIR® 4. May not have a well-defined use case or value to potential users. There may be significant or unknown burdens associated with development or implementation.
- **Level 1** – In addition to “Comment” level criteria, Level 1 data elements demonstrate limited existing use in electronic systems, limited exchange between systems and more well-defined use cases and value to potential users. There may still be some burdens associated with development and implementation.
- **Level 2** – In addition to “Comment” and “Level 1” criteria, Level 2 data elements demonstrate extensive existing use in systems and exchange between systems, and use cases that show significant value to current and potential users. These data elements would clearly improve nationwide interoperability. Any burdens or challenges would be reasonable to overcome relative to the overall impact of the data elements.

- ➔ | **ONC posts submitted data elements on the [USCDI page](#) arranged by levels.**
 - Submitters will have an opportunity to add or change information which could change a data element’s level determination.
 - Other stakeholders can review these submissions and contribute to their development through comments and collaboration with original submitters.
- ⚙️ | **Submissions achieving Level 2 by October (subject to change) of each year will be considered for inclusion in the draft of the next version of USCDI. This draft will be presented to the ONC Health IT Advisory Committee (HITAC) and on the USCDI homepage for public comment.**
- ✓ | **ONC finalizes the next version of USCDI by July (subject to change).**



New versions of the USCDI standard will be considered for inclusion in the [Standards Version Advancement Process \(SVAP\)](#). SVAP will allow health IT developers to update their systems to newer version of USCDI and provide these updates to their customers.