

ONC Fact Sheet: 2014 Edition Release 2 EHR Certification Criteria Final Rule

Summary

The 2014 Edition Release 2 EHR Certification Criteria (2014 Edition Release 2) final rule adopted ten optional 2014 Edition EHR certification criteria and two revised 2014 Edition EHR certification criteria that provide flexibility, clarity, and enhance health information exchange. The final rule also made a few improvements to the ONC Health IT (HIT) Certification Program and removed outdated regulation text from the Code of Federal Regulations.

2014 Edition Release 2 EHR Certification Criteria			
Optional Certification Criteria		Revised Certification Criteria	
Regulation Section	Title of Regulation Paragraph	Regulation Section	Title of Regulation Paragraph
§ 170.314(a)(18)	Optional – computerized provider order entry – medications	§ 170.314(e)(1)	View, download, and transmit to 3 rd party
§ 170.314(a)(19)	Optional – computerized provider order entry – laboratory	§ 170.314(g)(3)	Safety-enhanced design
§ 170.314(a)(20)	Optional – computerized provider order entry – diagnostic imaging		
§ 170.314(b)(8)	Optional – transitions of care		
§ 170.314(b)(9)	Optional – clinical information reconciliation and incorporation		
§ 170.314(f)(7)	Optional – ambulatory setting only – Transmission to public health agencies – syndromic surveillance		
§ 170.314(g)(1)	Optional – automated numerator recording		
§ 170.314(h)(1)	Optional – Applicability Statement for Secure Health Transport		
§ 170.314(h)(2)	Optional – Applicability Statement for Secure Health Transport and XDR/XDM for Direct Messaging		
§ 170.314(h)(3)	Optional – SOAP Transport and Security Specification and XDR/XDM for Direct Messaging		

* The designation of “optional” for certification criteria (in this case, the 2014 Edition) was developed to accommodate the Complete EHR definition. If a certification criterion is not designated as “optional,” an EHR technology designed for the ambulatory setting or inpatient setting would need to be certified to the criterion in order to satisfy the Complete EHR definition and be issued a Complete EHR certification.

Certification and Use of the 2014 Edition Release 2

EHR technology developers do not have to update and recertify their products to the 2014 Edition Release 2 nor do eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and critical access hospitals (CAHs) have to upgrade to EHR technology certified to the 2014 Edition Release 2. However, we encourage EHR technology developers and the eligible professionals, eligible hospitals, and CAHs that they support to consider whether the 2014 Edition Release 2 offers any opportunities that they might want to pursue.

Highlights

- ***Naming Convention for Editions of Certification Criteria.*** Future certification criteria editions will be named by the year in which the final rule is published and other rulemakings like the 2014 Edition Release 2 final rule (which include additional criteria or alternatives to previously adopted certification criteria) would be added to the most current edition of certification criteria. To further clarify, a rulemaking like the 2014 Edition Release 2 final rule that does not adopt an edition of certification criteria would be referred to as “[current edition year] Release #X.”
- ***Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) Certification Criteria.*** CPOE capabilities have been split out into three optional criteria (medications, laboratory, and diagnostic imaging).
 - This promotes regulatory flexibility for providers and innovation by developers.
 - All three of these certification criteria are eligible for gap certification.
- ***Transitions of Care (ToC) and Transmission Method Certification Criteria.*** An optional ToC certification *criterion* was adopted that focuses on summary care record creation. We finalized, as proposed, the separation of content and transport capabilities. As a result, we also adopted three separate optional certification criteria for transmission in accordance with Direct, Direct and XDR/XDM for Direct Messaging, and SOAP RTM and XDR/XDM for Direct Messaging.
 - This provides much needed certification and health information exchange flexibility and also supports continued innovation in the market.
 - The three transmission criteria are all eligible for gap certification as these capabilities were previously included and adopted in the 2014 Edition ToC criteria.
- ***Direct Edge Protocols Implementation Guide.*** The updated implementation guide for Direct Edge Protocols (Version 1.1) has been adopted for both the optional ToC criterion and the revised VDT criterion to ensure more consistent implementations of an edge protocol.
- ***View, Download, and Transmit to a 3rd Party (VDT) Certification Criterion.*** The 2014 Edition VDT criterion has been minimally revised to provide the option for technology to meet the transmit requirement in a similar manner as provided by the optional ToC criterion (i.e., not just via Direct, but in a method that complies with the Direct Edge Protocols IG and leads to the summary being processed by a service that has implemented Direct).
- ***Transmission of Syndromic Surveillance to Public Health Agencies.*** An optional 2014 Edition syndromic surveillance criterion permits the use of any electronic transmission method for certification.
 - This provides flexibility for EHR technology certification and could subsequently offer providers more options for meeting the associated MU objective and measure.
 - This optional certification criterion is eligible for gap certification.
- ***Discontinuation of the “Complete EHR” Certification Concept in Future Editions.*** The Complete EHR definition and Complete EHR certification will be discontinued for future editions of certification criteria. ONC-Authorized Certification Bodies (ONC-ACBs) will no longer be permitted to issue Complete EHR certifications beginning with the next adopted edition of certification criteria.
 - This has no impact on current 2014 Edition Complete EHR certifications or in using a 2014 Edition Complete EHR to meet the current CEHRT definition.
 - The additional 2014 Edition EHR certification criteria we have adopted in the 2014 Edition Release 2 final rule are all optional criteria and thus they do not affect the 2014 Edition Complete EHR definition.