

Information Blocking Actors

April 2024

Three categories of “actors” are regulated by the information blocking section of the ONC Cures Act Final Rule.



Health Care Provider

A health care provider is a: hospital; skilled nursing facility; nursing facility; home health entity or other long term care facility; health care clinic; community mental health center; renal dialysis facility; blood center; ambulatory surgical center; emergency medical services provider; federally qualified health center; group practice; pharmacist; pharmacy; laboratory; physician; practitioner; provider operated by or under contract with the Indian Health Service or by an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or urban Indian organization; rural health clinic; covered entity under 42 U.S.C. 256b; ambulatory surgical center; therapist; and any other category of health care facility, entity, practitioner, or clinician determined appropriate by the HHS Secretary.*



Health Information Network or Health Information Exchange

Health information network or health information exchange means an individual or entity that determines, controls, or has the discretion to administer any requirement, policy, or agreement that permits, enables, or requires the use of any technology or services for access, exchange, or use of electronic health information:

1. Among more than two unaffiliated individuals or entities (other than the individual or entity to which this definition might apply) that are enabled to exchange with each other; and
2. That is for a treatment, payment, or health care operations purpose, as such terms are defined in 45 CFR 164.501 regardless of whether such individuals or entities are subject to the requirements of 45 CFR parts 160 and 164.



Health IT Developer of Certified Health IT

Health IT developer of certified health IT means an individual or entity, other than a health care provider that self-develops health IT that is not offered to others, that develops or offers health information technology (as that term is defined in 42 U.S.C. 300jj(5)) and which has, at the time it engages in a practice that is the subject of an information blocking claim, one or more Health IT Modules certified under a program for the voluntary certification of health information technology that is kept or recognized by the National Coordinator pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 300jj-11(c)(5) (ONC Health IT Certification Program).

***Detailed statutory citations for specific health care provider types were removed from this fact sheet to present a simplified view of the “health care provider” definition. The full definition of “health care provider” is available in the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300jj).**

The full text of the information blocking regulations can be found in 45 CFR part 171. Please note that other federal, state, and local laws may also apply.