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 Proposed Rule

(The "2015 Edition")

Summary

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) published a proposed rule to adopt the 2015 Edition of Health Information Technology (Health IT) certification program requirements on March 20, 2015. The 2015 Edition proposed rule serves as a key component in ONC's commitment to establishing an interoperable nationwide health information infrastructure and is tied to the Department of Health and Human Services' delivery system reform efforts of promoting better care, smarter spending, and healthier people by working in three core areas: improving the way providers are paid, improving the way care is delivered, and improving the way information is shared. These proposed rules are critical levers to support making electronic health information securely available when and where it is needed across the system.

The 2015 Edition proposed rule builds on the foundation established with the 2011 and 2014 Editions. It proposes to adopt standards and certification criteria designed to foster innovation, open new market opportunities, and provide more choices to the care community for electronic health information exchange. The rule also supports ONC's vision for interoperability. As outlined in ONC's Draft *Connecting Health and Care for the Nation: A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap – Version 1.0*, the three-year agenda for 2015 – 2017 focuses on sending, receiving, finding, and using a common clinical data set to improve health and health care quality. The 2015 Edition proposed rule aligns with this three-year agenda by offering health IT certification to support the goals outlined in the draft Roadmap.

The proposed rule is open for public comment from March 30 until May 29 and is available at http://www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/standards-and-certification-regulations.

ONC 2015 Edition Certification Program Proposed Rule   March 2015

Highlights

Specifically, the proposed rule proposes to:

- Enable a more flexible certification program that supports developer innovation and focuses on interoperability;

- Adopt new and updated vocabulary and content standards for the structured recording and exchange of electronic health information, including a Common Clinical Data Set that is clearly defined, composed primarily of electronic health information expressed using adopted standards, and designed to improve the flow of electronic health information across the care continuum;

- Facilitate the accessibility and exchange of electronic health information by including enhanced data portability, transitions of care, and application programming interface (API) capabilities as part of the 2015 Edition Base EHR definition;

- Adopt standards that can help health IT users address health disparities, including standards for the collection of social, psychological, and behavioral data, and for the accessibility of health IT;

- Continue to make the privacy and security of data a priority, including by ensuring that all health IT presented for certification possesses the relevant privacy and security capabilities and by addressing the exchange of electronic sensitive health information through the Data Segmentation for Privacy standard;

- Improve patient safety by applying enhanced user-center design principles to health IT, enhancing patient matching, requiring relevant electronic health 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; and

- Increase the reliability and transparency of certified health IT through surveillance and disclosure requirements.