The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

2015 Edition
Expanding Patient Electronic Health Information Access and Exchange

Understanding Certified Health IT

Browse criteria by clicking an icon from the wheel.

Interoperability is essential for systems to communicate

ONC Certified HIT

Certification supports clinician engagement in clinical practice improvement and care coordination activities using health IT – including participation in CMS programs

Patients can access and send their health information electronically

Clinicians & Hospitals have tools for clinical processes, care coordination, and quality improvement

Developers can assure their customers that their product meets recognized standards and functionality

2015 Edition Certification Criteria Categories

About the Certification Criteria
There are sixty 2015 Edition health IT certification criteria, which are organized into the eight categories specified on the wheel above. ONC-Authorized Certification Bodies (ONC-ACBs) certify health IT products that have been successfully tested by an ONC-Authorized Testing Laboratory (ONC-ATL) to the certification criteria. These products are then listed on the Certified Health IT Product List (CHPL). We encourage clinicians to work with their health IT developers to determine if their products include the right set of certified functionality to support their practices and patients.

Learn More
2015 Edition Final Rule

The 2015 Edition health IT certification criteria (2015 Edition) facilitate greater interoperability for several clinical health information purposes, and enable health information exchange through new and enhanced certification criteria, standards, and implementation specifications. In particular, the 2015 Edition supports participation by patients in their health and the care they receive.

To learn about all the 2015 Edition Health IT Certification Criteria, review the **"Understanding Certified Health IT Interactive Tool."**

View Tool

Benefits of 2015 Edition Certified Health IT

The 2015 Edition includes certification criteria that aim to support health organizations' ability to securely share data through multiple electronic channels, both with other clinicians of care and with patients. In addition, the 2015 Edition supports patient electronic access to health information through new functionalities and a range of potential technologies including the use of an application programming interface (API). These technologies allow patients greater flexibility and choice in how they access and share their health information.

New and Revised 2015 Edition Certification Criteria

We have highlighted several new and revised 2015 Edition certification criteria that support patient access to their health information, patient-directed transmission of their health information, and patients participating in their own care. We encourage stakeholders to review the 2015 Edition to determine the criteria that best suit their needs.

Go To	PATIENT ENGAGEMENT	
USE	**CRITERION**	
Online Access to Patient Health Information	View, Download, and Transmit to 3rd Party	
Secure Patient Communications with Clinicians	Secure Messaging	
Accepting Health Information from Patients	Patient Health Information Capture	

Go To	HEALTH IT DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE	
USE	**CRITERION**	
Access Patient Data through an Application Programming Interface (API)	Application Access—Patient Selection Application Access—Data Category Request Application Access—All Data Request	

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

View, Download, and Transmit to 3rd Party

This certification criterion supports patient access to their health information, including via email transmission to any third party the patient chooses (including to any email address, so long as the patient is properly advised of the risks of doing so) and through a second encrypted method of transmission (which could be accomplished with Direct or by another encrypted means). This allows patients to be more engaged in their care and enhance care coordination and management.

Supplementary Resources

Certification Companion Guide   Test Procedure

Secure Messaging

Secure messaging enables a clinician to send messages to, and receive messages from, a patient in a secure manner to ensure appropriate access and secure exchange of health information.

Supplementary Resources

Certification Companion Guide   Test Procedure

Patient Health Information Capture

This certification criterion supports clinician acceptance of health information from patients which can advance patient engagement and activation, as well as support the use of patient-generated health data (PGHD) in shared decision-making. This can help provide health information to clinicians and help address health disparities in populations that are less likely to execute health care planning documents.

Supplementary Resources

Certification Companion Guide   Test Procedure

HEALTH IT DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE

Application Access—Patient Selection

The "application access" certification criteria are split into three separate certification criteria (Patient Selection, Data Category Request, and All Data Request) with each individual criterion focused on specific functionality. The "application access" certification criteria require health IT to demonstrate it can provide application access to a common set of patient clinical data via an application programming interface (API).

API functionality will help address many of the challenges currently faced by individuals and caregivers accessing their health data, including the "multiple portal" problem, by potentially allowing individuals to aggregate data from multiple sources in a web or mobile application of their choice.

Supplementary Resources
Certification Companion Guide   Test Procedure

Application Access—Data Category Request

The "application access" certification criteria are split into three separate certification criteria (Patient Selection, Data Category Request, and All Data Request) with each individual criterion focused on specific functionality. The "application access" certification criteria require health IT to demonstrate it can provide application access to a common set of patient clinical data via an application programming interface (API).

API functionality will help address many of the challenges currently faced by individuals and caregivers accessing their health data, including the "multiple portal" problem, by potentially allowing individuals to aggregate data from multiple sources in a web or mobile application of their choice.

Supplementary Resources
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Application Access—All Data Request

The "application access" certification criteria are split into three separate certification criteria (Patient Selection, Data Category Request, and All Data Request) with each individual criterion focused on specific functionality. The "application access" certification criteria require health IT to demonstrate it can provide application access to a common set of patient clinical data via an application programming interface (API).

API functionality will help address many of the challenges currently faced by individuals and caregivers accessing their health data, including the "multiple portal" problem, by potentially allowing individuals to aggregate data from multiple sources in a web or mobile application of their choice.

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To learn more about all of the 2015 Edition Health IT Certification Criteria, review the "Understanding Certified Health IT Interactive Tool."

View Tool