



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

HITAC Policy Framework and Schedule

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Policy Framework

“In General, the Health IT Advisory Committee shall recommend to the National Coordinator a policy framework for adoption by the Secretary consistent with the strategic plan under section 3001(c)(3) for advancing the target areas described in this subsection. Such policy framework shall seek to prioritize achieving advancements in the target areas specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) and may, to the extent consistent with this section, incorporate policy recommendations made by the HIT Policy Committee, as in existence before the date of the enactment of the 21st Century Cures Act.”

Policy Framework

- HITAC recommendations on policies, standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria to achieve progress on the 21st Century Cures Act target areas:
 - » Achieving a health information technology infrastructure that allows for the electronic access, exchange, and use of health information;
 - » The promotion and protection of privacy and security of health information in health information technology;
 - » The facilitation of secure access by an individual to such individual's protected health information; and
 - » Any other target area that the HITAC identifies as an appropriate target area to be considered.

Policy Framework

- The HITAC policy framework would support the provisions of recommendations to the National Coordinator on matters related to the target areas identified in the 21st Century Cures Act, such as:
 - » Trusted Exchange Framework;
 - » United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI);
 - » Standards Use Cases; and
 - » Health Information Technology: Interoperability and Certification Enhancements Proposed Rule.

Schedule

“(5) SCHEDULE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the HIT Advisory Committee first meets, such HIT Advisory Committee shall develop a schedule for the assessment of policy recommendations developed under paragraph (1). The HIT Advisory Committee shall update such schedule annually. The Secretary shall publish such schedule in the Federal Register.”

Schedule

1. Identify the best mechanism to organize itself to respond to the National Coordinator with recommendations within 90 days with, at a minimum, the following:
 - » Develop an assessment of what policies, standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria are currently available;
 - » Consider where gaps exist and identify potential organizations that have the capability to address those gaps;
 - » Create a timeline, which may also account for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) testing, of when the HITAC is expected to issue recommendations to the National Coordinator; and
 - » Include an opportunity for public comment

Schedule

2. In responding to the National Coordinator:

- » Approve a timeline to deliver recommendations to the National Coordinator; and
- » Establish a task force to conduct analysis and solicit input, where appropriate, and issue recommendations to the full committee in a timely manner.

Schedule

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3. In collaboration with NIST, annually and through the use of public input, review and publish priorities for the use of health information technology, standards, and implementation specifications to support those priorities.

Schedule

4. Recommend to the National Coordinator for purposes of adoption, standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria and an order of priority for the development, harmonization, and recognition of such standards, specifications, and certification criteria.

Such recommendations shall include recommended standards, architectures, and software schemes for access to electronic individually identifiable health information across disparate systems including user vetting, authentication, privilege management, and access control.

Annual Progress Report to Congress

The HITAC, shall annually submit to the HHS Secretary and Congress a report on progress made during the preceding fiscal year:

- » A description of the work conducted by the HITAC
- » An assessment of the infrastructure including the extent to which electronic health information is appropriately and readily available to enhance the access, exchange, and use of electronic health information
- » Extent to which advancements have been achieved
- » An analysis of existing gaps in policies and resources for furthering interoperability
- » Recommendations for addressing the gaps identified and;
- » Additional initiatives as the HITAC and ONC deem appropriate

HITAC 2018 Draft Timeline

- January - February
 - » Policy Schedule
 - » Policy Framework
 - » Trusted Exchange Framework task force
 - » USCDI task force
- Spring
 - » ONC's proposed rule covering Cures Implementation
- Summer
 - » Standards Use Cases
- Fall
 - » HITAC Annual Report

HITAC 2018 Draft Timeline

Charge	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Policy Framework												
Trusted Exchange Framework												
US-CDI Glide Path												
ONC proposed rule												
Standards Use Cases												
FACA Annual Report												