



# Collaboration of the Health IT Policy and Standards Committees

Policy and Standards Federal Advisory Committees on Health Information Technology to the National Coordinator

## Application Programming Interface (API) Task Force

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# Agenda

- ❖ Introduction and Scope
- ❖ Document Overview
- ❖ Recommendations Overview

# Membership

Member	Organization	Role
<b>Meg Marshall</b>	<b>Cerner Corporation</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
<b>Josh Mandel</b>	<b>Harvard Medical School</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
Leslie Kelly Hall	Healthwise	Member
Rajiv Kumar	Stanford University School of Medicine	Member
Aaron Seib	National Association for Trusted Exchange	Member
Drew Schiller	Validic	Member
Richard Loomis	Practice Fusion	Member
David Yakimischak	Surescripts	Member
Aaron Miri	Walnut Hill Medical Center	Member
Robert Jarrin	Qualcomm Incorporated	Member
Ivor Horn	Seattle Children's Hospital	Member
<i>Linda Sanches</i>	<i>HHS Office for Civil Rights</i>	<i>Federal Ex Officio</i>
<i>Rose-Marie Nsahlai</i>	<i>ONC</i>	<i>ONC Lead</i>

Application Programming Interface (API) - a technology that allows one software program to access the services provided by another software program

- In its 2015 Edition CEHRT rule, ONC has included certification criteria for fully functioning APIs to support patient access to health data via view, download, and transmit (VDT).
- However, in discussing this concept in the proposed rule with our FACAs, *many members expressed concerns about privacy compliance and security of APIs.*

Therefore, the API Task Force was created to...

## Task Force Charge and Questions

- **Identify perceived security concerns and real security risks that are barriers to the widespread adoption of open APIs in healthcare.**
  - » For risks identified as real, identify those that are not already planned to be addressed in the Interoperability Roadmap (*for example, identity proofing and authentication are not unique to APIs*);
- **Identify perceived privacy concerns and real privacy risks that are barriers to the widespread adoption of open APIs in healthcare.**
  - » For risks identified as real, identify those that are not already planned to be addressed in the Interoperability Roadmap (*for example, harmonizing state law and misunderstanding of HIPAA*);
- **Identify priority recommendations for ONC that will help enable consumers to leverage API technology to access patient data, while ensuring the appropriate level of privacy and security protection.**

# Out of Scope Issues

- Terms of Use
- Licensing Requirements
- Policy Formulation
- Fee Structures
- Certifying Authorities
- Formulation of Standards
- Electronic documentation of consents required by law or policy
- Issues unique to write-APIs

# Document Overview

- **Overview**
  - » **Introduction**
  - » **Scope**
  - » **Motivation for Limited Scope**
- **Task Force Approach**
  - » **General support for APIs**
  - » **Oversight and Enforcement of APIs**
- **Generic Use Case**
  - » **Variants on Use Case**
  - » **Topics 1-8**
    - **Background**
    - **Findings**
    - **Recommendations**



### Generic Use Case

- **Topic 1: Types of Apps and Organizations Who Provide Them**
- **Topic 2: App Registration**
- **Topic 3: Endorsement/Certification of Apps**
- **Topic 4: Communication of the App's Privacy Policies**
- **Topic 5: Patient Authorization Framework**
- **Topic 6: Limitations and Safeguards On Sharing**
- **Topic 7: Auditing and Accounting For Disclosures**
- **Topic 8: Identity Proofing, User Authentication, and App Authentication**

### Appendix

- **Virtual Hearing Information**
  - » **Background**
  - » **Virtual Hearing Panelists**
  - » **Key Items for Consideration**
  - » **Out of Scope Issues**
  - » **Key Themes from Hearings**
  - » **Top Challenges**
  - » **Key Drivers for Success**
- **Technical Actors, Roles, Responsibilities and Operations**
- **Glossary of Terms**

## Discussion/Questions