



The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

2015 Edition Supporting Care Across the Continuum

The 2015 Edition health IT certification criteria (2015 Edition) support clinicians and health organizations in a wide range of practice settings across the care continuum.

Benefits of 2015 Edition Certified Health IT

Clinicians and health organizations across the care continuum using health IT certified to the 2015 Edition will have improved access to technical standards that form an essential foundation for interoperability. Standards-based electronic exchange supports patient care by ensuring that health care data is consistently available to the right person, at the right place, and at the right time.

Understanding Certified Health IT

Browse criteria by clicking an icon from the wheel.

Interoperability is essential for systems to communicate

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

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

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

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

[View Tool](#)

New and Revised 2015 Edition Certification Criteria and Standards

We have highlighted several new and revised 2015 Edition certification criteria and standards that support uses and settings across the care continuum. We encourage stakeholders to review the 2015 Edition to determine the criteria and standards that best suit their needs.

Go To CARE COORDINATION	
USE	CRITERION
Send/Receive Structured Patient Data	Common Clinical Data Set*
Send/Receive a Patient Summary Record	Transitions of Care
Patient Care Coordination	Care Plan
Exchange of Sensitive Patient Health Information	Data Segmentation for Privacy—Send Data Segmentation for Privacy—Receive

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

* The Common Clinical Data Set is a set of structured data referenced by multiple criteria.



CARE COORDINATION

Transitions of Care

A transition of care summary and referral summaries provide essential clinical information for the receiving care team and helps organize final clinical and administrative activities for the transferring care team. This summary helps ensure the coordination and continuity of health care as patients transfer between different clinicians at different health organizations or different levels of care within the same health organization. This document improves admissions, discharges and other transition processes, communication among clinicians, and cross-setting relationships which can improve care quality and safety.

This certification criterion will rigorously assess a product's ability to create, receive, and properly consume interoperable documents using a common content and transport standard (e.g., Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA) and Direct Edge Protocol, respectively) that include key health data (e.g., name, date of birth, medications) that should be accessible and available for exchange.

Supplementary Resources

[Certification Companion Guide](#)

[Test Procedure](#)

Care Plan

The care plan can help improve coordination of care by providing a structured format for documenting patient information such as goals, health concerns, health status evaluations, and interventions. Inclusion of this information is essential to incorporating the patient's perspective, improving outcomes, and represents an important step toward realizing a longitudinal, dynamic, shared care plan.

Supplementary Resources

[Certification Companion Guide](#)

[Test Procedure](#)

Data Segmentation for Privacy—Send

Sensitive health data is often exchanged via fax or paper-based methods, or excluded from data exchange altogether, meaning a clinician may not have all the relevant data at the point of care. This can lead to lower quality of care for the patient and can also lead to redundant, unnecessary, or harmful care. This criterion confirms that health IT is capable of sending a tagged transition of care summary document with privacy metadata that expresses the data classification and possible re-disclosure restrictions placed on the data by applicable law. This standard improves patient safety, the comprehensiveness of treatment, and quality of care, as well as supports and enables the delivery of more effective care to sub-groups of patients.

Supplementary Resources

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Data Segmentation for Privacy—Receive

Sensitive health data is often exchanged via fax or paper-based methods, or excluded from data exchange altogether, meaning a clinician may not have all the relevant data at the point of care. This can lead to lower quality of care for the patient and can also lead to redundant, unnecessary, or harmful care. This criterion confirms that health IT is capable of receiving a tagged transition of care summary document with privacy metadata that expresses the data classification and possible re-disclosure restrictions placed on the data by applicable law. This standard improves patient safety, the comprehensiveness of treatment, and quality of care, as well as supports and enables the delivery of more effective care to sub-groups of patients.

Supplementary Resources

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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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[Test Procedure](#)

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.

Supplementary Resources

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[View Tool](#)