



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

STANDARDS VERSION ADVANCEMENT PROCESS (SVAP)

2022 SVAP Fact Sheet

This fact sheet describes the voluntary Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) available to health IT developers participating in the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Certification Program). This resource assists Certified Health IT Developers in understanding SVAP and their responsibilities if they choose to leverage this flexibility.

What is SVAP?

The ONC Cures Act Final Rule (Final Rule) established the voluntary [Standards Version Advancement Process SVAP](#) flexibility as part of the [Real World Testing Condition and Maintenance of Certification](#) (45 CFR [170.405](#)) required by the 21st Century Cures Act. SVAP allows Certified Health IT Developers participating in the Certification Program to voluntarily update their Health IT Modules and provide these updates to its customers to use approved newer versions of standards than are adopted in regulation so long as certain conditions are met.

SVAP allows for advanced versions of standards to be approved for use under the Certification Program in a more timely and flexible manner than is possible for new versions of standards that are adopted through ONC rulemaking. It also gives Certified Health IT Developers the ability to conduct ongoing maintenance on their certified health IT to incorporate these new and more advanced standard versions, which is essential to supporting interoperability in the real world.

The process to identify, approve, and make available newer versions of standards takes place on an annual cycle to keep pace with the industry's standards development efforts. Working with stakeholders and providing ample notice, ONC's collaborative public comment process seeks feedback each year on newer versions of eligible standards that are also ready for adoption in the Certification Program through the SVAP. For more information on the SVAP public comment process, please visit <https://www.healthit.gov/isa/standards-version-advancement-process>.



After reviewing this fact sheet, readers will understand:

- What is SVAP
- What are the Approved Standards for 2022
- How to use SVAP
- Where to find additional SVAP information



Approved SVAP versions are announced in June each year and become effective for Certification Program use after a 60-day period in August of that year.

Approved Standards for 2022

The SVAP flexibility is limited to the standards adopted in the certification criteria that meet the Real World Testing Condition and Maintenance of Certification requirement. As part of ONC’s review and assessment of the 2022 SVAP Cycle public comments, the newer versions of adopted standards listed in the table below have been approved for use in the Certification Program.

Certified Health IT Developers can begin voluntarily incorporating these standard versions on August 29, 2022.

These are the standards that have been approved for the 2022 SVAP cycle. For a complete list of all SVAP approved standards that can be used in the Certification Program, see the [ONC Health IT Certification Program SVAP page](#).

2022 Approved SVAP Standard	Regulatory Standard Version	Certification Criteria(on)
Applicability Statement for Secure Health Transport Version 1.3, May 2021 (Direct)	Applicability Statement for Secure Health Transport, Version 1.2, August 2015 (Direct)	§ 170.315(b)(1) Transitions of care § 170.315(h)(1) Direct Project § 170.315(h)(2) Direct Project, Edge Protocol, and XDR/XDM
HL7® CDA R2 Implementation Guide: C-CDA Templates for Clinical Notes R2.1 Companion Guide, Release 3-US Realm, May 2022	HL7® CDA R2 Implementation Guide: C-CDA Templates for Clinical Notes R2.1 Companion Guide, Release 2-US Realm, October 2019	§ 170.315(b)(1) Transitions of care § 170.315(b)(2) Clinical information reconciliation and incorporation § 170.315(b)(9) Care plan § 170.315(e)(1) View, download, and transmit to 3rd party § 170.315(g)(9) Application access - all data request
CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture: Category I; Hospital Quality Reporting; Implementation Guide for 2022 (November 2021)	CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture: Category I; Hospital Quality Reporting; Implementation Guide for 2020	§ 170.315(c)(3) Clinical quality measures (CQMs) — report
CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture: Category III; Eligible Clinicians and Eligible Professionals Programs; Implementation Guide for 2022 (December 2021)	CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture: Category III; Eligible Clinicians and Eligible Professionals Programs; Implementation Guide for 2020	§ 170.315(c)(3) - Clinical quality measures (CQMs) — report
United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), Version 2, July 2021	United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), Version 1, July 2020 Errata	§ 170.315(b)(1) Transitions of care § 170.315(b)(2) Clinical information reconciliation and incorporation § 170.315(e)(1) View, download, and transmit to 3rd party § 170.315(f)(5) Transmission to public health agencies electronic case reporting § 170.315(g)(9) Application access - all data request § 170.315(g)(10) Standardized API for patient and population services

2022 Approved SVAP Standard	Regulatory Standard Version	Certification Criteria(on)
HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 4.0.0, June 2021 HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 5.0.1, June 2022	HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 3.1.1, August 8, 2020	§ 170.315(g)(10) - Standardized API for patient and population services
HL7® FHIR® SMART Application Launch Framework Implementation Guide Release 2.0.0, November 26, 2021	HL7® FHIR® SMART Application Launch Framework Implementation Guide Release 1.0.0, November 13, 2018	§ 170.315(g)(10) - Standardized API for patient and population services
HL7® FHIR® Bulk Data Access (Flat FHIR®) (v2.0.0: STU 2), November 26, 2021	HL7® FHIR® Bulk Data Access (Flat FHIR®) (v1.0.0: STU 1), August 22, 2019	§ 170.315(g)(10) - Standardized API for patient and population services
HL7® CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Reports, Release 3 - US Realm, December 2020	HL7® Implementation Guide for CDA® Release 2 – Level 3: Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Reports, Release 1, U.S. Realm, August 2013	§ 170.315(f)(6) Transmission to public health agencies – antimicrobial use and resistance reporting

How to Use SVAP

For the approved SVAP versions, Certified Health IT Developers choosing to leverage the SVAP flexibility can do so on initial certification of their Health IT Module or to maintain certification for their Module. To take advantage of the flexibility to update to newer approved versions, a Certified Health IT Developer will need to:

- For existing certifications only, provide advance notice to all affected customers and their ONC-Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB), expressing
 - intent to update to the more advanced version of the standard;
 - expectations for how the update will affect interoperability of each affected Health IT Module; and
 - whether they intend to continue to support the certificate(s) for the existing Certified Health IT Module(s) version.
- Successfully demonstrate conformance with approved more recent versions of the standard(s) included in each updated certification criterion to confirm they meet the updated requirements.
- Maintain the updated Certified Health IT Module(s) in full conformance with all applicable Certification Program requirements, which includes ensuring their Real World Testing plans and results address the updated standards.

Previously Approved SVAP Standards

A version of an adopted standard approved for use during any SVAP cycle remains available for certification until a newer SVAP version of that standard is approved.

If a newer SVAP version is approved, the previously approved SVAP version will be replaced and no longer available for use in the Certification Program. However, please note the following:

- Certified Health IT Developers do not need to keep advancing to newer SVAP versions once they choose to use SVAP.
- No new certifications can be made to the replaced SVAP version once the newer version goes into effect in the Certification Program.
- Any certifications to the replaced SVAP version will still be valid.

For more information on how to use SVAP in the Certification Program, please contact your ONC-ACB.



SVAP Resources

- [SVAP](#): See the most recent list of Approved Standards for SVAP and operational information for certification.
- [SVAP Annual Process](#): View information on the annual process, including the list of standards versions being considered for the next Approved Standards List.
- [ONC Standards Bulletin](#): View and sign up for healthcare stakeholder alerts that include updates about ONC health IT standards initiatives such as the SVAP.
- [Certification Program Resources](#): Access reference documents and other resources related to ONC's Health IT Certification Program.

Note: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of restatements of 45 CFR Part 170, this resource is not a legal document. The official requirements are contained in the relevant laws and regulations.

