The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

CURES ACT FINAL RULE

United States Core Data for Interoperability

The first version of the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI v1) is adopted as a standard in the ONC Cures Act Final Rule. The USCDI sets a foundation for broader sharing of electronic health information to support patient care.

Use of the USCDI standard is required as part of the new application programming interface (API) certification criterion, "standardized API for patient and population services" (§ 170.315(g)(10)). Additionally, the USCDI standard ultimately replaces the Common Clinical Data Set (CCDS) in the following certification criteria:

> "transitions of care" (§ 170.315(b)(1));
>
> "clinical information reconciliation and incorporation" (§ 170.315(b)(2)) (Only three CCDS data elements - Medications, Medication Allergies, and Problems);
>
> "view, download, and transmit to 3rd party" (§ 170.315(e)(1));
>
> "transmission to public health agencies – electronic case reporting" (§ 170.315(f)(5));
>
> "consolidated CDA creation performance" (§ 170.315(g)(6)); and
>
> "application access – all data request" (§ 170.315(g)(9)).

Key Definitions:

- **USCDI:** a standardized set of health data classes and constituent data elements for nationwide, interoperable health information exchange
- **USCDI Data Class:** an aggregation of various data elements by a common theme or use case
- **USCDI Data Element:** the most granular level at which a piece of data is represented in the USCDI for exchange

The Final Rule's USCDI v1 Adopts Minor Changes

In the USCDI v1, there are minor changes from what was proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). These are illustrated in Table 1.

In order to better align with the standards such as HL7® Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) and Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture®, the USCDI has defined a new data class named "Allergies and Intolerances" and moved the concept of "medication allergies" into this data class.

There are a few additional data elements added to the Patient Demographics data class to improve patient matching and the Provenance data class is finalized without requiring the Author data element.

All other data classes and elements are unchanged from NPRM to the USCDI v1.

The USCDI Version 1 is available at https://www.healthit.gov/uscdi.

ONC will follow a predictable, transparent, and collaborative process to expand the USCDI, including providing stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the USCDI's expansion. ONC will be launching a public website to solicit recommendations from the public for changes and additions to the USCDI. Based on public input, the draft of the next version of USCDI will be presented to the public for review and comment before it's finalized.

The USCDI standard will also be included in the Standards Version Advancement Process (https://www.healthit.gov/svap) described in the final rule, which will allow health IT developers to update their systems to a newer version of the USCDI and provide these updates to their customers.

Table 1:
Data Class and Data Element Changed from NPRM
Data class is cell header. Data elements are bulleted.

Changed Data Elements NPRM to USCDI v1	
Proposed USCDI	**Final Cures Rule (USCDI v1)**
Patient Demographics • Address	**Patient Demographics** • Current Address • Previous Address • Phone Number • Phone Number Type • Email Address
Provenance • Author • Author Organization • Author Time Stamp	**Provenance** • Author Organization • Author Time Stamp
Substance Reactions* (including Medication Allergies) • Substance* • Reaction*	**Allergies and Intolerances** • Substance (Medication) • Substance (Drug Class) • Reaction

*From Request for Comment on Alternative Approach to Representing Medication Allergies.