
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.

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.

**CARE COORDINATION**

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**HEALTH IT DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE**

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

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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.

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Data Segmentation for Privacy—Receive

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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.

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Application Access—Data Category Request

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Application Access—All Data Request

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