Fact Sheet: ONC Health, Technology, and Interoperability: ONC Deregulatory Actions to Unleash Prosperity (HTI-5) Final Rule

Last Updated: 11/4/26

Background

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) released the *Health, Technology, and Interoperability: ONC Deregulatory Actions to Unleash Prosperity (HTI-5)* final rule on Monday, October 26, 2026. Released in response to *Executive Order 14192 Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation*, the final rule aims to reduce burden on health IT developers by streamlining the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Certification Program) through the removal and revision of program requirements.

Key Provisions of the Final Rule

- Removal of 14 certification criteria and the revision of seven criteria, including, but not limited to:
    - Reducing the scope of the Decision Support Intervention (DSI) criteria to remove the AI model card requirements, effective December 28, 2026;
    - Removal of the Security Tags Summary of Care for Send and Receive certification criteria, effective December 28, 2026;
    - Removing the Transitions of Care certification criteria, effective January 1, 2030; and
    - Removing certification criteria related to the creation and transmission of consolidated clinical document architecture (C-CDA) and the Direct exchange protocol, effective January 1, 2030.
- Finalized a descoping of the Real-World Testing Condition and Maintenance of certification, along with other recissions and revisions to the requirements, a majority of which are effective January 1, 2027.
- Finalized conforming edits to remove expired requirements throughout the Certification Program, along with edits to remove or revise references to other finalized recissions and revisions.

What HTI-5 does NOT do:

- ONC refrained from finalizing the removal or revision of the certification criteria related to the privacy and security portions of the Certification Program. This keeps amendments, accounting for disclosures, and audit log functions as certified capabilities for certified health IT modules.

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- None of the information blocking proposals made it into the final rule, however, ONC stated that these proposals remain under consideration as part of HHS's ongoing enforcement of information blocking.

Anticipated Impact on Health Information Professionals

Full impact to the HI profession is not expected until at least 2030, after the full slate of changes take effect and updated certified health IT products are implemented. However, immediate areas where HI could be impacted by HTI-5 include:

- ***Data segmentation***: While voluntary, removal of the security tags for sending and receiving summary of care certification criteria, means certified health IT modules will no longer be guaranteed to tag sensitive data such as Part 2 records when exchanged. HI professionals may have to increasingly rely on organizational policy and manual review to ensure sensitive data remains private and secure.
- ***AI governance:*** Reducing the scope of the decision support intervention (DSI) criteria, including the model card could reduce transparency and shift vetting of such tools and liability burdens to end-users. HI professionals' expertise in data governance and AI oversight may become increasingly important to help guide their organization when deploying such tools.

HI professionals are advised to work with the developer and/or vendor of their certified health IT products to determine potential impact to process flows and implemented technology. Immediate impact is not anticipated and maintaining an open dialogue with your health IT developer and/or vendor can help minimize future impact.

Questions? Contact us at advocacy@ahima.org.

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