

A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap and Standards Advisory Fact Sheet



Building a strong foundation of health IT is critical to realizing the goal that care is delivered to every American using an electronic health record (EHR). To achieve this goal, the tools, the technologies, and the resources must exist so that every person has access to a long-term, comprehensive digital picture of their health over their lifespan. The Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap and accompanying Standards Advisory provide the vision, mission, and guidance to ensure that the right care is delivered at the right place and time to patients all the time.

A Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap

The [Shared Nationwide Interoperability Roadmap](#) lays out a plan in three, six and ten year increments. This plan builds on standards that enable the foundation for interoperability today, and processes to test and certify that health IT systems implement those standards consistently and according to constrained implementation guidance.

Drivers

- A supportive payment and regulatory environment

Policies and Technical Components

- Shared decision-making rule of engagement and accountability
- Ubiquitous secure network infrastructure
- Verifiable Identity and Authentication of all participants
- Consistent representation of authorization
- Consistent understanding and technical representation of permission to collect, share and use identifiable electronic health information
- An industry-wide testing and certification infrastructure
- Consistent data semantics and formats
- Secure, standard devices
- Consistent, secure transport techniques
- Accurate Individual data matching
- Health care directories and resource location

Outcomes

- Individuals
- Tracking progress and measuring success
- Providers

Interoperability Standards Advisory

The [Interoperability Standards Advisory \(ISA\)](#) process represents the model that will be used by Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). ONC will coordinate the identification, assessment and determination of the “best available” interoperability standards and implementation specifications for industry use to fulfill specific clinical health IT interoperability needs.

Six new characteristics to inform stakeholders about maturity and adoption:

1. Standards process maturity
2. Implementation maturity
3. Adoption level
4. Standard adopted in regulation
5. Cost
6. Test tool availability

Stakeholders who administer government programs, procurements, and testing or certification programs with clinical health IT interoperability components are recommended to consider the Advisory in order to leverage the standards and implementation specifications listed to achieve their interoperability goals.

Annual process to update the Standards Advisory

- **December preceding the upcoming calendar year:**
 - The new Interoperability Standards Advisory for the next calendar year is published (e.g., December 2016 for the 2017 Advisory).
 - A first round of approximately 90-120 days of public comment period will be opened on that year’s ISA.
- **April/May:**
 - Sometime during late April/early May the comment period will expire.
 - ONC staff will compile all comments received during the first round comment period.
 - ONC staff will present a summary of received comments to the HIT Standards Committee (or designated Task Force) in order to prepare them to make recommendations on updates for the following year’s Interoperability Standards Advisory.
- **August:**
 - The HIT Standards Committee submits recommendations to the National Coordinator concerning updates to the following year’s Interoperability Standards Advisory.
 - A second round 60-day public comment will be opened on the HIT Standards Committee’s recommendations concerning the Interoperability Standards Advisory.
- **October-December:**
 - Sometime during October the comment period will expire.
 - ONC will review the HIT Standards Committee recommendations as well as public comments on those recommendations.
 - ONC will prepare the next year’s Interoperability Standards Advisory for publication.