

2019 PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMS: 2015 EDITION CERTIFIED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD TECHNOLOGY FACT SHEET

In the [Fiscal Year 2019 Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System for Acute Care Hospitals and Long-term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System Final Rule](#), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reiterated that beginning with the EHR reporting period in **calendar year 2019**, all Promoting Interoperability Program participants are **required** to use the 2015 Edition of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT).

After reviewing the state of health information technology, CMS believes the 2014 Edition certification criteria are out of date and insufficient for health care provider needs in the evolving health IT industry. CMS believes it will be beneficial to health IT developers and health care providers to move to the more up-to-date standards and functions in 2015 Edition CEHRT that better support interoperable exchange of health information and improve clinical workflows.

2019 CEHRT Requirements

The 2015 Edition CEHRT **did not** have to be implemented on January 1, 2019. However, the functionality must be in place by the first day of the EHR reporting period and the product must be certified to the 2015 Edition criteria by the last day of the EHR reporting period. The eligible hospital or CAH must be using the 2015 Edition functionality for the full EHR reporting period. In many situations the product may be deployed, but pending certification.

Benefits of 2015 Edition CEHRT

- Improves interoperability by adopting new and updated vocabulary and content standards for the structured capture and exchange of health information, including a Common Clinical Data Set (CCDS) composed primarily of data expressed using adopted standards; and rigorously testing and identified content exchange standard (Consolidated Clinical Document Architecture (C-CDA)). 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.
- Includes “application access” certification criteria that require health IT to demonstrate it can provide application access to the CCDS via an application programming interface (API).
- Supports patient electronic access to health information through new functionalities and a range of potential technologies including the use of APIs. These technologies allow patients greater flexibility and choice in how they access and share their health information.



- Includes a revised View, Download, and Transmit criterion that continues to support patient access to their health information, including via email transmission to any third party the patient chooses (including to any email address, so long as the patient is properly advised of the risks of doing so) and through a second encrypted method of transmission.

Additional Resources

- [Promoting Interoperability Programs Landing page](#)
- [2019 Medicare Program Requirements webpage](#)
- [2019 Medicaid Program Requirements webpage](#)
- [Scoring, Payment Adjustment, and Hardship Information webpage](#)
- [FY 2019 IPPS and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Overview Fact Sheet](#)
- [Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](#)