

2021 MEDICARE PROMOTING INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAM: 2015 EDITION CERTIFIED ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD TECHNOLOGY FACT SHEET

For those participating in the Promoting Interoperability Programs in calendar year 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) requires that all participants **must** use the 2015 Edition of certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT).

The more up-to-date standards and functions in 2015 Edition CEHRT better support interoperable exchange of health information and improve clinical workflows.

2021 CEHRT Requirements

The 2015 Edition CEHRT **does not** have to be implemented on January 1, 2021. However, the functionality must be in place by the first day of the electronic health record (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 critical access hospital (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 during a portion of the EHR reporting period.

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 tested 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 requires 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.