

Health Care Data Interoperability Resources

The [Uniform Data System \(UDS\) Modernization Initiative](#) is a continuous effort to improve data reporting from participants of the Health Center Program (HCP). These efforts focus on reducing reporting burden and improving data quality and granularity by leveraging advances in health IT to improve evaluation efforts of HCP services and outcomes, as well as better articulating the experience of health centers and their patients. The UDS Patient-Level Submission (UDS+) is an implementation of recent UDS modernization efforts and aims to increase the utility of UDS report data and to reduce annual reporting burden by aligning with interoperability standards and reporting requirements used across the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and within the healthcare industry.

This document provides information on the final rules from Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as well as resources from Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) grantees and other non-profits on topics that will affect the implementation of UDS Modernization and influence data interoperability.

Final Rules from ONC and CMS and Related Resources

ONC and CMS have devised final rules to guide implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act, a piece of legislation that aims to increase choice and access for patients and providers and contains provisions covering a wide range of health care topics (e.g., streamlining development and delivery of drugs and medical devices, improving mental health services, etc.). The ONC and CMS final rules work together to provide guidance about health care data interoperability. The ONC rule provides requirements for certification of application programming interfaces (APIs) and the CMS rule provides requirements for those receiving CMS reimbursement to use ONC-certified electronic health record vendors. The resources below provide technical specifications about these requirements and their influence on UDS Modernization efforts.

[ONC Cures Act Final Rule Website](#)

Last Updated: November 2021

File Format(s): Webpage/PDF/Archived Webinars

Description: The [ONC Cures Act Final Rule](#) (Final Rule) implements certain provisions of the Cures Act related to advancing electronic health record (EHR) interoperability and is designed to give patients and their health care providers secure access to health information.

This is important for the UDS Modernization Initiative and UDS+ because, in the Final Rule, ONC adopted a new API certification criterion for health information technology (IT). This API certification criterion will require the use of Health Level Seven (HL7®) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) to ensure that data systems from primary care to hospital settings are able to leverage data from any EHR in a standard format. Since UDS+ reporting will rely on EHR interoperability, the Final Rule requirements will apply.

The ONC Cure Act Final Rule website provides:

- an overview of the final rule
- implementation milestones
- important considerations for patients, providers, and health IT developers
- final rule policies for certification updates, information blocking, and patient access
- a list of training and technical assistance resources related to the final rule

[FHIR Fact Sheets](#)

Last Updated: June 2021

File Format(s): PDF

Description: FHIR® is an API-focused standard used to represent and exchange health information maintained by the standards development organization HL7®. The ONC Final Rule will require the use of HL7® FHIR® to ensure that data systems from primary care to hospital settings are able to leverage data from any EHR in a standard format. ONC, in collaboration with HL7®, provide four fact sheets to demystify FHIR® for health care providers and administrators:

- [What is HL7® FHIR®?](#)
- [Introduction to FHIR® Resources](#)
- [FHIR® Version History and Maturity](#)
- [The FHIR® API](#)

[Policies and Technology for Interoperability and Burden Reduction](#)

Last Updated: December 2021

File Format(s): Webpage

Description: This webpage provides an overview information and resources related to the [CMS Interoperability and Patient Access Final Rule](#), released in tandem with the ONC's Cures Act Final Rule. The rule creates and implements new mechanisms to enable patients to access their own health care information through third-party software applications, thereby providing them with the ability to decide how, when, and with whom to share their information. The CMS Final Rule follows technical standards from the ONC Final Rule related to use of HL7® FHIR® and both rules work together to advance health care data interoperability and improve access to data.

BPHC Grantee Resources

[Health Center Resource Clearinghouse – Electronic Case Reporting Leveraging FHIR Toolkit](#)

Last Updated: January 2022

File Format(s): Webpage/PDF

Description: AllianceChicago, a HRSA-funded Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN), created an implementation toolkit that provides a checklist and approximate timeline to help other HCCNs and Primary Care Associations (PCA) plan for successful integration of FHIR® API integration for electronic case reporting. The toolkit provides key questions for HCCNs and PCAs to consider before integrating, such as available staff resources and EHR vendor requirements.

[Technology to Support 'Hands-Free' Public Health Reporting for COVID and All Reportable Conditions](#)

Last Updated: October 2021

File Format(s): Vimeo, PDF

Description: Archived webinar about the current and future use of electronic case reporting (eCR) presented by the Health Information Technology, Evaluation, and Quality Center (HITEQ), a HRSA-funded National Training and Technical Assistance Partner. This webinar details eCR implementation in health centers and an emerging FHIR® application known as [MedMorph](#).

Non Profit Resources

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Charting a Course for an Equity-Centered Data System](#)

Last Updated: October 2021

File Format(s): Webpage, PDF

Description: Report from the National Commission to Transform Public Health Data Systems, established by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to reimagine data collection, sharing, and utilization, and identify the investments needed to improve health equity. The report includes recommendations for government officials, business leaders, community-based organizations, and philanthropic institutions to take specific actions to modernize the public health data system.