

Conditions and Maintenance of Certification requirements for health information technology (health IT) developers, the voluntary certification of health IT for use by pediatric health providers, and reasonable and necessary activities that do not constitute information blocking. The final rule also implements parts of section 4006(a) of the Cures Act to support patients' access to their EHI in a form convenient for patients, such as making a patient's EHI more electronically accessible through the adoption of standards and certification criteria and the implementation of information blocking policies that support patient electronic access to their health information at no cost. Additionally, the final rule modifies the 2015 Edition health IT certification criteria and ONC Health IT Certification Program (Program) in other ways to advance interoperability, enhance health IT certification, and reduce burden and costs.

In addition to fulfilling the Cures Act's requirements, the final rule contributes to fulfilling Executive Order (EO) 13813. The President issued EO 13813 on October 12, 2017, to promote health care choice and competition across the United States. Section 1(c) of the EO, in relevant part, states that government rules affecting the United States health care system should re-inject competition into health care markets by lowering barriers to entry and preventing abuses of market power. Section 1(c) also states that government rules should improve access to and the quality of information that Americans need to make informed health care decisions. For example, as mentioned above, the final rule establishes application programming interface (API) requirements, including for patients' access to their health information without special effort. The API approach also supports health care providers' independence to choose the "provider-facing" third-party services they want to use to interact with the certified API technology they have acquired. In addition, the final rule provides the Secretary of Health and Human Services'

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