

The public comment period for the Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) is now open through September 30, 2021, at 11:59 pm ET. Comment on the SVAP [here](#). Remember to [log in](#) or [register](#) to post a comment.

The Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) permits health IT developers to voluntarily update health IT products certified under the ONC Health IT Certification Program to newer versions of adopted standards as part of the “Real World Testing” Condition and Maintenance of Certification requirement (§ 170.405) of the 21st Century Cures Act.

Using SVAP, certified health IT developers are permitted to voluntarily use a newer approved version of a standard than is adopted in regulation. Currently, this flexibility is limited to standards that are adopted in the certification criteria required to meet the “Real World Testing” Condition of Certification, which include § 170.315(b), (c)(1) through (c)(3), (e)(1), (f), (g)(7) through (g)(10), and (h).

Health IT developers taking advantage of the SVAP flexibility must ensure that their Real World Testing plans and results of the certified health modules address these updated standards. Additionally, health IT developers updating their already certified health IT modules are required to provide advance notice to their clients and ONC-Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB) before adopting a newer approved version of a standard.

Working with industry stakeholders, ONC has developed a collaborative public comment process to identify newer versions of standards that are ready for use in the Program. For additional information on the annual process, including the list of standards and versions eligible for consideration, please visit the [SVAP Process Page](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP).

The following comment is submitted by Quest Diagnostics.

Health IT developers taking advantage of the SVAP flexibility must ensure that their real world testing plans and results of the certified health modules use these updated standards and implementation specifications. Additionally, certified health IT developers are required to provide **advance notice** to their clients and their ONC-Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB) before adopting the new standards.

Comment:

Please clarify “Advance Notice”. If the updated version is not backward compatible, or if it has “breaking changes” (FHIR), trading partners need to agree that both the sender and the receiver can support the updated version.

Breaking changes: Versions - FHIR v4.0.1 (hl7.org)

Extract from <http://hl7.org/fhir/versions.html>

- **“Breaking changes** are changes that mean that previously conformant applications are no longer conformant to the updated specification.”