



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

2024 Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) Fact Sheet

This fact sheet describes the voluntary Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) available to health IT developers participating in the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Certification Program). This resource assists Certified Health IT developers in understanding SVAP and their responsibilities if they choose to leverage this flexibility.

What is SVAP?

The ONC Cures Act Final Rule (Final Rule) established the voluntary [Standards Version Advancement Process \(SVAP\)](#) flexibility as part of the [Real World Testing Condition and Maintenance of Certification \(45 CFR 170.405\)](#). SVAP allows Certified Health IT developers participating in the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Certification Program) to voluntarily update their Certified Health IT Modules and to provide newer versions of standards to their customers prior to their adoption in regulation so long as certain conditions are met.

SVAP allows for advanced versions of standards to be approved for use under the Certification Program in a more timely and flexible manner than is possible for new versions of standards that are adopted through ONC rule making. It also gives Certified Health IT developers the ability to incorporate these new and more advanced standard versions into their Certified Health IT, which is essential to supporting real world interoperability.

The process to identify, approve, and make available newer versions of standards takes place on an annual cycle to keep pace with the industry's standards development efforts. Working with stakeholders and providing ample notice, ONC's collaborative public comment process seeks feedback each year on newer versions of eligible standards that are also ready for adoption in the Certification Program through the SVAP. For more information on the SVAP public comment process, please visit <https://www.healthit.gov/isa/standards-version-advancement-process>.



After reviewing this fact sheet, readers will understand:

- What is SVAP
- What are the Approved Standards for 2024
- How to use SVAP
- Where to find additional SVAP information



Approved SVAP versions are announced in June each year and become effective for Certification Program use after a 60-day period in August of that year.

Approved Standards for 2024

The SVAP flexibility is limited to the standards adopted in the certification criteria that meet the Real World Testing Condition and Maintenance of Certification requirement. As part of ONC’s review and assessment of the 2024 SVAP Cycle public comments, the newer versions of adopted standards listed in the table below have been approved for use in the Certification Program.

2023 Approved SVAP Standard	Regulatory Standard Version	Certification Criteria(on)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2, October 5, 2023	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, December 11, 2008	§ 170.315(e)(1) - View, download, and transmit to 3rd party
HL7 CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: Consolidated CDA Templates for Clinical Notes, Edition 3.0 – US Realm, May 2024	Health Level 7 (HL7®) Implementation Guide for CDA® Release 2 Consolidation CDA® Templates for Clinical Notes (US Realm), Draft Standard for Trial Use Release 2.1 C-CDA® 2.1, August 2015, June 2019 (with Errata) HL7® CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: C- CDA® Templates for Clinical Notes R2.1 Companion Guide, Release 2-US Realm, October 2019 (Adoption of this standard expires on January 1, 2026) HL7® CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: C-CDA® Templates for Clinical Notes STU Companion Guide, Release 4.1—US Realm (This standard is required by December 31, 2025)	§ 170.315(b)(1) - Transitions of care; § 170.315(b)(2) - Clinical information reconciliation and incorporation; §170.315(b)(7)- Security tags- summary of care- send; § 170.315(b)(8)- Security tags- summary of care- receive; § 170.315(b)(9) - Care plan; § 170.315(e)(1) - View, download, and transmit to 3rd party; § 170.315(g)(9) - Application access - all data request
HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide: Syndromic Surveillance, Release 1 - US Realm Standard for Trial Use, July 2019	CDC PHIN Messaging Guide for Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department, Urgent Care, Inpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings, Release 2.0, April 21, 2015	§ 170.315(f)(2) - Transmission to public health agencies – syndromic surveillance
HL7 Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide for Immunization Messaging, Release 1.5 2018 Update	Health Level 7 (HL7®) 2.5.1 Implementation Guide for Immunization Messaging, Release 1.5, October 1, 2014 HL7® Version 2.5.1 Implementation Guide for Immunization Messaging (Release 1.5)—Addendum, July 2015	§170.315(f)(1) - Transmission to immunization registries

2023 Approved SVAP Standard	Regulatory Standard Version	Certification Criteria(on)
CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category I Hospital Quality Reporting; Implementation Guide for 2024 (Updated August 2023)	CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture: Category I; Hospital Quality Reporting; Implementation Guide for 2020	§ 170.315(c)(3) - Clinical quality measures (CQMs) – report
CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category III Eligible Clinicians Programs; Implementation Guide for 2024 (Updated November 2023)	CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture: Category III; Eligible Clinicians and Eligible Professionals Programs; Implementation Guide for 2020	§ 170.315(c)(3) - Clinical quality measures (CQMs) – report
United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), Version 4, October 2023 Errata	United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), Version 1, July 2020 Errata (Adoption of this standard expires on January 1, 2026) United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), October 2022 Errata, Version 3 (This standard is required by December 31, 2025)	§ 170.315(b)(1) - Transitions of care; § 170.315(b)(2) - Clinical information reconciliation and incorporation; § 170.315(e)(1) - View, download, and transmit to 3rd party; § 170.315(f)(5) - Transmission to public health agencies - electronic case reporting; § 170.315(g)(9) - Application access - all data request; § 170.315(g)(10) - Standardized API for patient and population services
HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 7.0.0, May 2024	Health Level 7 (HL7®) FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 3.1.1 (Adoption of this standard expires on January 1, 2026) HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 6.1.0 (This standard is required by December 31, 2025)	§ 170.315(g)(10) - Standardized API for patient and population services

2023 Approved SVAP Standard	Regulatory Standard Version	Certification Criteria(on)
HL7 FHIR SMART Application Launch Framework Implementation Guide v2.2.0, April 30, 2024	Health Level 7 (HL7®) FHIR® SMART Application Launch Framework Implementation Guide Release 1.0.0, November 13, 2018 (Adoption of this standard expires on January 1, 2026) HL7® SMART App Launch Implementation Guide Release 2.0.0, including mandatory support for the “Capability Sets” of “Patient Access for Standalone Apps” and “Clinician Access for EHR Launch”; all “Capabilities” as defined in “8.1.2 Capabilities,” excepting the “permission-online” capability; “Token Introspection” as defined in “7 Token Introspection” (This standard is required by December 31, 2025)	§ 170.315(g)(10) - Standardized API for patient and population services
HL7 CDA R2 Implementation Guide: National Health Care Surveys (NHCS), R1 STU Release 3.1 - US Realm	HL7 Implementation Guide for CDA® Release 2: National Health Care Surveys (NHCS), Release 1 - US Realm, HL7 Draft Standard for Trial Use, Volume 2 - Templates and Supporting Material, December 2014	§ 170.315(f)(7) - Transmission to public health agencies — health care surveys

Certified Health IT developers can begin voluntarily incorporating these standard versions on August 19, 2024.

These are the standards that have been approved for the 2024 SVAP cycle. Several of the [Approved SVAP Standards for 2023](#) have been incorporated by reference in the [Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, and Information Sharing \(HTI-1\) Final Rule](#). Health IT Modules that have already updated to these standards via SVAP will not need to update their standard versions to meet requirements in HTI-1. However, there may be other required updates for their certified criteria. Certified Health IT developers that have not used SVAP to update standards referenced in HTI-1 may not use the SVAP process. Instead, Certified Health IT developers should follow the established processes in the ONC Health IT Certification Program to update Health IT Modules that reference standards in HTI-1. Please visit the [ONC Health IT Certification Program SVAP](#) webpage or contact your ONC-Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB) for more information on the update requirements related to HTI-1 Final Rule.

To SVAP to a newer version of USCDI, a developer must conform to either the HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide (IG) or the HL7® CDA® R2 Implementation Guide: C-CDA® Templates for Clinical Notes R2.1 Companion Guide.

ONC will update all of the associated test data and tools, including the Cypress Testing Tool, the Edge Test Tool’s (ETT), C-CDA® validators, and the Inferno Framework’s “g.10 Standardized API Test Kit” by December 31, 2024.

How to Use SVAP

For the approved SVAP versions, Certified Health IT developers choosing to leverage the SVAP flexibility can do so on initial certification of their Health IT Module or to maintain certification for their Module. To take advantage of the flexibility to update to newer approved versions, a Certified Health IT developer will need to:

- For existing certifications only, provide advance notice to all affected customers and their ONC-Authorized Certification Body (ONC-ACB), expressing
 - intent to update to the more advanced version of the standard;
 - expectations for how the update will affect interoperability of each affected Health IT Module; and
 - whether they intend to continue to support the certificate(s) for the existing Certified Health IT Module(s) version.
- Successfully demonstrate conformance with approved more recent versions of the standard(s) included in each updated certification criterion to confirm they meet the updated requirements.
- Maintain the updated Certified Health IT Module(s) in full conformance with all applicable Certification Program requirements, which includes ensuring their Real World Testing plans and results address the updated standards.

Unless ONC specifically excludes the use of additional data elements or electronic standards in rulemaking, there is nothing that prevents a health IT developer from supporting additional data elements, functionalities, or electronic standards in its health IT modules. This could include the partial support of any of the SVAP versions of standards or individual data classes or elements from an SVAP version of USCDI. However, health IT developers may not indicate that those modules are certified to such standards or data elements unless the health IT module provides full support for the entire SVAP version of the standard and the developer has taken all of the steps listed above. Only when all of the above steps have been completed will a health IT module be considered certified to an SVAP version of a standard and then subsequently updated on the Certified Health IT Product List (CHPL).

For more information on how to use SVAP in the Certification Program, please contact your ONC-ACB.

Previously Approved SVAP Standards

A version of an adopted standard approved for use during any SVAP cycle remains available for certification until a newer SVAP version of that standard is approved.

If a newer SVAP version is approved, the previously approved SVAP version will be replaced and no longer available for use in the Certification Program. However, please note the following:

- Certified Health IT developers do not need to keep advancing to newer SVAP versions once they choose to use SVAP.
- No new certifications can be made to the replaced SVAP version once the newer version goes into effect in the Certification Program.
- Any certifications to the replaced SVAP version will still be valid.



SVAP Resources

- [SVAP](#): See the most recent list of Approved Standards for SVAP and operational information for certification.
- [SVAP Annual Process](#): View information on the annual process, including the list of standards versions being considered for the next Approved Standards List.
- [ONC Standards Bulletin](#): View and sign up for healthcare stakeholder alerts that include updates about ONC health IT standards initiatives such as the SVAP.
- [Certification Program Resources](#): Access reference documents and other resources related to ONC's Health IT Certification Program.

Note: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of restatements of [45 CFR Part 170](#), this resource is not a legal document. The official requirements are contained in the relevant laws and regulations.