

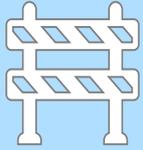
Request for Information: Diagnostic Imaging and Interoperability Standards and Certification

February 11, 2026

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Challenges

Diagnostic imaging is essential for medical diagnosis, and timely access to acquired images is critical for good patient outcomes and avoidance of test duplication



Technical Barriers

- Proprietary vendor formats can impede exchange
- Outside providers may not have access to full-resolution DICOM® files
- Access to prior imaging studies are frequently restricted



Fragmented Provider Access

Health care providers who work within the same organization generally have direct access to the diagnostic images obtained by the organization, but access for health care providers outside of the organization can be nonexistent, inconsistent, or highly dependent on several technical, operational, and organizational factors



Patient Burden and Limited Access

Patients are often unable to access their own imaging directly or with a patient-facing application (app). Consequently, patients and their caregivers are left to carry around physical media.

Past Regulatory Efforts

- Various ASTP/ONC rulemakings (2012-2015) explored imaging standards and certification criteria for the ONC Health IT Certification Program (Certification Program) but ultimately removed imaging requirements in the 2015 Edition Final Rule (October 2015)
- The HTI-2 Proposed Rule (August 2024) proposed revisions to certification criteria to include new certification requirements to support access, exchange, and use of diagnostic images via imaging links. The proposed revisions to the certification criteria were not finalized via the HTI-2 Proposed Rule Withdrawal Notice (December 2025)
- ASTP/ONC's joint Request for Information (RFI) with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) (May 2025) identified challenges specific to the access, exchange, and use of diagnostic images including:
 - Fragmented, manual, and unreliable image exchange ecosystem
 - Continued reliance on physical media (e.g., CDs/DVDs)
 - Lack of patient access to their own diagnostic images through modern application program interface (API)-driven tools

RFI Goals

Responses to this RFI will be used as considerations to inform potential future rulemaking.



Transition from Physical Media to Electronic Access, Exchange, and Use

Enhanced access to diagnostic images can improve care and health outcomes, decrease the need for duplicative imaging tests, and reduce costs within the United States health care system.



Standards and Certified Health IT Functionality

Potential adoption of diagnostic imaging technical standards and certification criteria under the Certification Program to better enable the access, exchange, and use of diagnostic images.

Example Question



What technical approaches are currently in use to enable access and/or exchange of diagnostic images between health care systems and health information networks? To what extent are these methods based on standards (e.g., DICOM, DICOMweb™, FHIR®, IHE® XDS-I, IHE® XCA-I) versus proprietary or custom integrations?

Next Steps

- As we evaluate the best and least burdensome ways to support the access, exchange, and use of electronic health information (EHI), including diagnostic images, through the adoption of standards and the certification of health IT under the Certification Program, we invite public comments to help us further explore how we can achieve these goals for the purpose of accessing, exchanging, and using diagnostic images.
- Comments are due 45 days after publication of the RFI in the Federal Register **on March 16, 2026**.

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Read the full [Diagnostic Imaging RFI](#)

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