

ONC Health IT Certification Program Developer Roundtable

July 1, 2026

Please Note:

The materials contained in this presentation are based on the provisions contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 170 and 171. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this restatement of those provisions, this presentation is not a legal document. The official program requirements are contained in the relevant laws and regulations. Please note that other Federal, state and local laws may also apply.

This communication is produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.

Today's Agenda

1. 2026 Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP)
2. ONC Testing Strategy for Electronic Prior Authorization
3. Inferno 201: Coverage Requirements Discovery (CRD) 2.2.1
 - Inferno Testing Concepts
 - Inferno Testing Release for CRD v2.2.1
 - CRD v2.2.1 in the ONC Certification Program
 - Demonstration of Resources

2026 Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP)

Shawn Spurlock, Certification & Testing

Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP)

The SVAP allows health IT developers participating in ONC's Health IT Certification Program to voluntarily update their Health IT Modules to use newer versions of standards than are adopted in regulation so long as certain conditions are met.

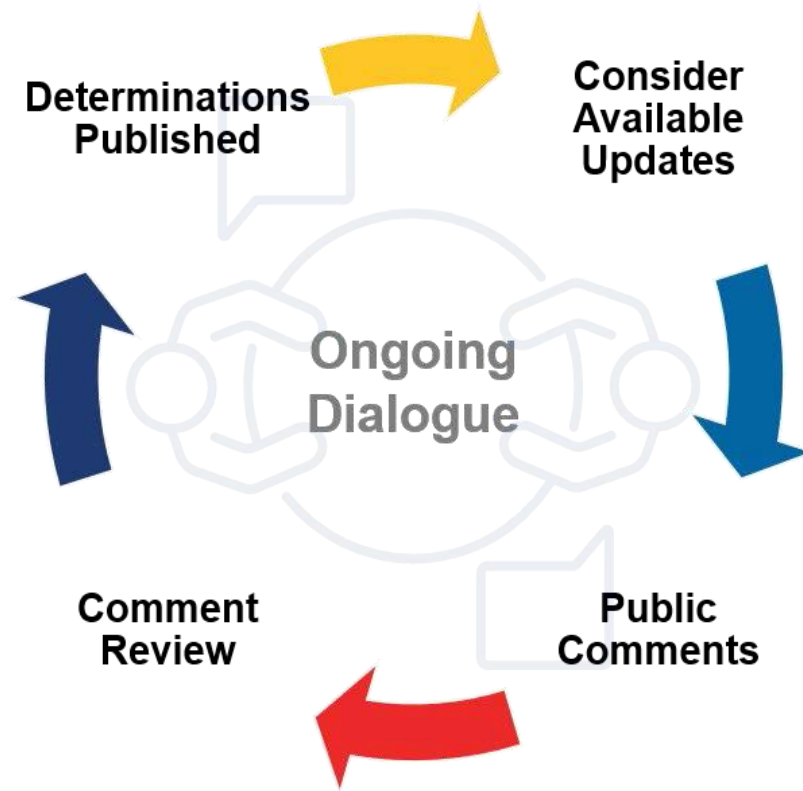
Why Is This Important?

- Provides flexibility to approve newer versions of adopted standards without rulemaking.
- Institutes a predictable and timely approach within the Certification Program to keep pace with the industry's standards development efforts.
- Supports interoperability in the real world as updated versions of standards reflect insights gained from real-world implementation and use.

ONC established the voluntary SVAP flexibility as part of the “Real World Testing” Condition and Maintenance of Certification requirement of the 21st Century Cures Act.

The SVAP Cycle

How Versions Get Approved



- To keep pace with the industry's standards development efforts, the process to identify, approve, and make available newer versions of standards takes place on an annual cycle
- The cycle commences each with the opening of the Public Comment Period and concludes when the Approved SVAP Standards become effective.

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.

Previously Approved SVAP Standards

- Standard versions approved in previous SVAP cycles will remain available for use unless they are superseded by regulatory action or another policy update.
- In the past, the Certification Program treated each annual SVAP cycle as time-limited, which constrained the availability of previously approved versions.
- Based on feedback and experience with several SVAP cycles, we believe supporting multiple versions of SVAP-approved standards will better serve industry and advance our shared goals, especially for standards that publish updates annually.
- This approach gives Certified Health IT developers:
 - Enhanced flexibility when planning, developing, and maintaining Certified Health IT Modules.
 - A smoother transition across standard versions by allowing developers to adopt newer SVAP-approved versions without immediately losing access to versions approved in prior cycles.

Previously Approved SVAP Standards:

<https://www.healthit.gov/topic/standards-version-advancement-process-svap>

2026 Approved SVAP Standards

- **United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI), Version 6**
 - <https://isp.healthit.gov/united-states-core-data-interoperability-uscdi#uscdi-v6>
- **HL7® FHIR® US Core Implementation Guide STU 9.0.0, (June 2026)**
 - <https://hl7.org/fhir/us/core/STU9/>
- **HL7® Consolidated CDA® (C-CDA), Release 5.0.0 – US Realm (June 2026)**
 - <https://hl7.org/cda/us/ccda/4.0.0/>
- **HL7® FHIR® Da Vinci – Coverage Requirements Discovery (CRD) Implementation Guide, Version 2.2.1—STU 2.2**
 - <https://hl7.org/fhir/us/davinci-crd/2.2.1/en/>
- **HL7® FHIR® Da Vinci – Documentation Templates and Rules (DTR) Implementation Guide, Version 2.2.0—STU 2.2**
 - <https://hl7.org/fhir/us/davinci-dtr/2.2.0/en/>
- **HL7® FHIR® Da Vinci – Prior Authorization Support (PAS) FHIR Implementation Guide, Version 2.2.1—STU 2**
 - <https://hl7.org/fhir/us/davinci-pas/en/>
- **2026 CMS QRDA I Implementation Guide for Hospital Quality Reporting (Updated May 2025)**
 - <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/QRDA-HQR-2026-v1.pdf>
- **2026 CMS QRDA III Implementation Guide for Eligible Clinicians (Updated December 2025)**
 - <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/2026-CMS-QRDA-III-EC-IG-v1.1.pdf>

SVAP Resources

- [2026 SVAP Fact Sheet](#)
- [SVAP Certification Page](#)
 - Obtain the list of approved SVAP versions and operational information for certification
- [SVAP Process Page](#)
 - View information on the annual process, including the list of eligible standards and their versions for consideration
- [ONC Standards Bulletin](#)
 - View and sign up for healthcare stakeholder alerts that include updates about ONC health IT standards initiatives such as the SVAP
- [ONC Blog Post: ONC's 2026 Approved SVAP Standards](#)
- [Certification Program Resources](#)
 - Access reference documents and other resources related to ONC's Health IT Certification Program

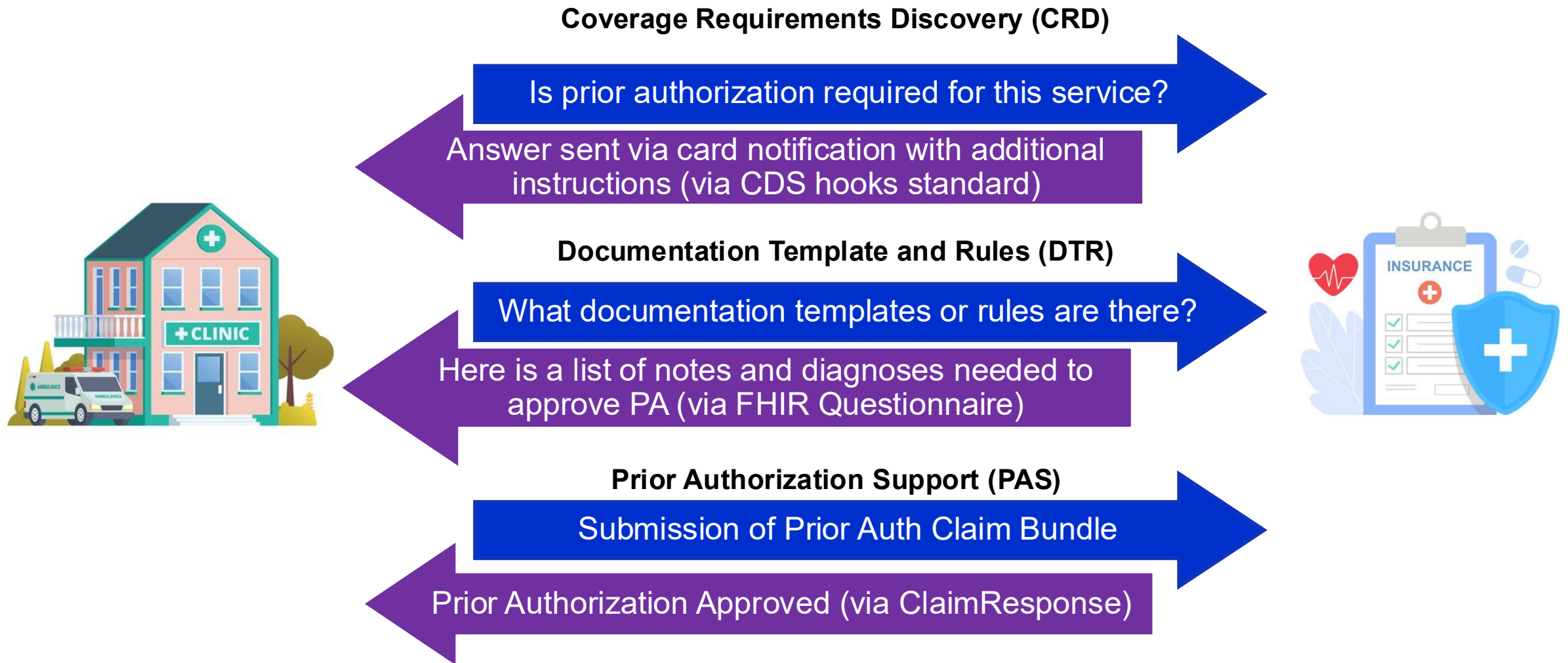
Testing Strategy for Electronic Prior Authorization

Jeffery Smith, Certification and Testing

A Collaborative Testing Strategy for Nationwide Electronic Prior Authorization

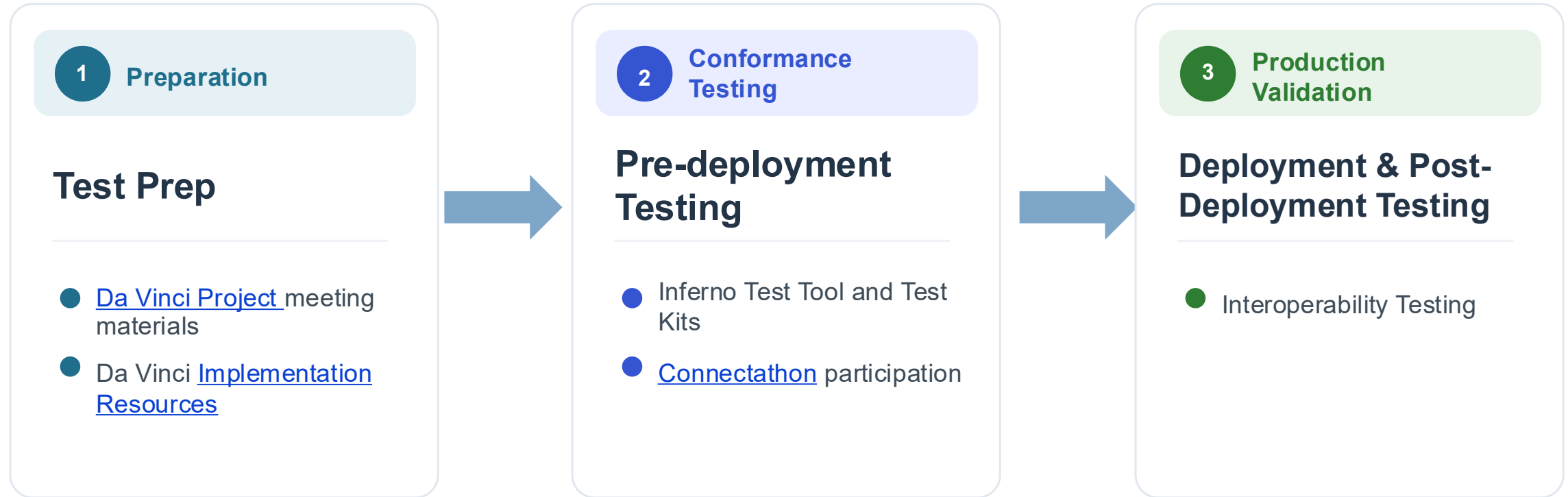
- ONC and CMS are spearheading a collaborative effort with industry to advance electronic prior authorization (ePA)
- A unified testing roadmap will improve readiness across the healthcare ecosystem and significantly reduce friction towards nationwide deployment of systems
- This testing strategy is centered on preparing all stakeholders—payers, developers, providers—for nationwide deployment of ePA.
- Given that prior authorization is a two-sided conversation between payers and providers, we are working with multiple partners at CMS to ensure:
 - (1) the proper incentives apply to both payers and providers
 - (2) the proper tools are available to support the technical exchange of information to facilitate prior authorization

Big Picture: Da Vinci Project Approach to FHIR API-based Prior Authorization



Tools to support electronic prior authorization

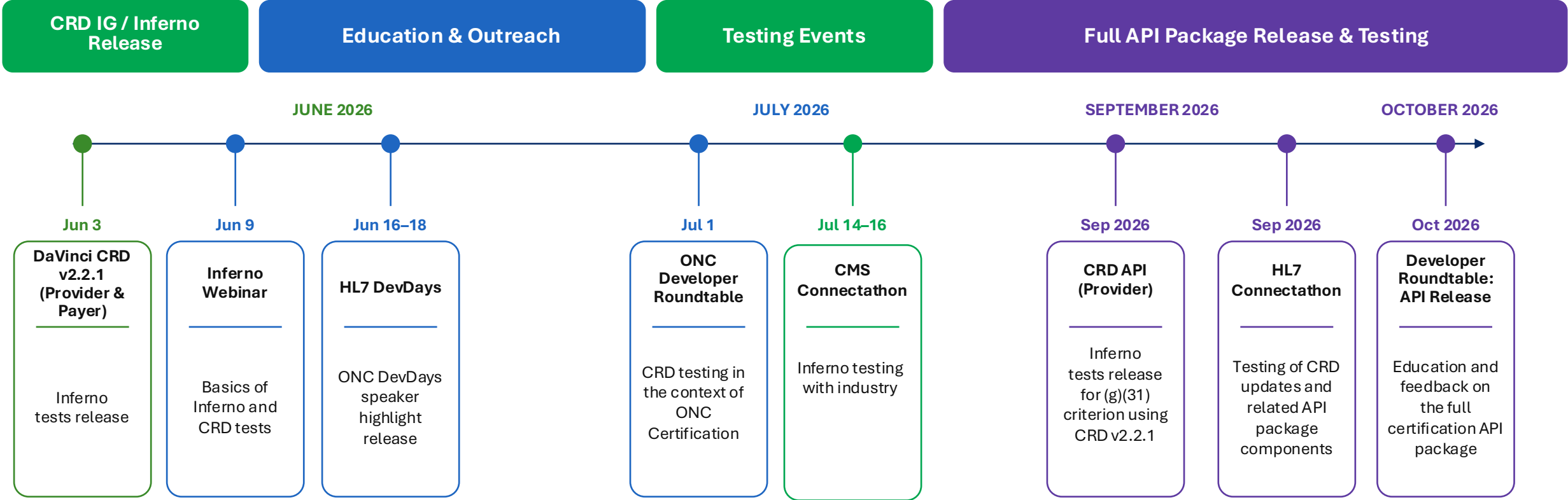
From preparation to deployment validation and ongoing interoperability testing



Outcome: Deployment readiness with ongoing interoperability

CRD Inferno Testing Plan – 2026 Timeline

KEY OBJECTIVE: Coordinate CRD IG Inferno release, outreach, industry testing, and full API package readiness for Certification Program activities



PLAN FLOW: Release → Educate → Industry Test → Enhance Test Kit → Package, Release, & Test Full Certification API

Policy (Incentives) to support electronic prior authorization

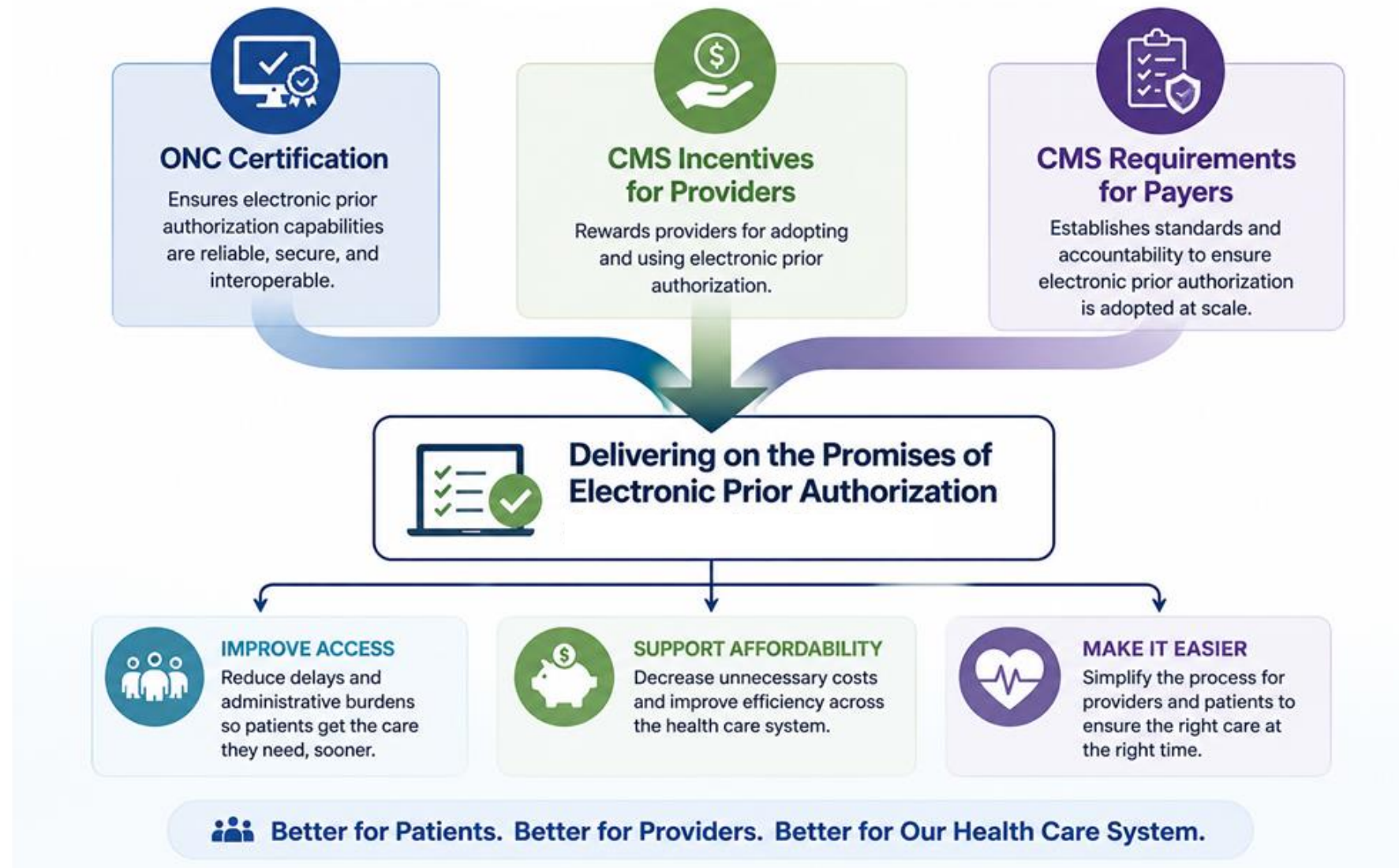
ONC Health IT Certification Criteria

- 3 Certification Criteria leveraging Version 2.0 CRD, DTR, and PAS IGs
 - Provider prior authorization API—coverage requirements discovery at 45 CFR 170.315(g)(31)
 - Provider prior authorization API—documentation templates and rules at 45 CFR 170.315(g)(32)
 - Provider prior authorization API—prior authorization support at 45 CFR 170.315(g)(33)
- April 2026 proposals would require use of Version 2.2 of CRD, DTR, and PAS IGs for certification criteria at (g)(31)-(33)

CMS Payment Policies for hospitals, physicians, and payers

- Promoting Interoperability Program
 - Hospitals through Inpatient Prospective Patient Systems (IPPS)
 - Office-based physicians through Physician Fee Schedule (PFS)
- Medicare, Medicaid, ACA, HIPAA
 - CMS Interoperability Standards and Prior Authorization for Drugs proposed rule (CMS-0062-P)
 - “Impacted Payers,” including Medicare Advantage organizations, Medicaid, CHIP state programs, and Qualified Health Plan issuers on the Federally-facilitated Exchanges

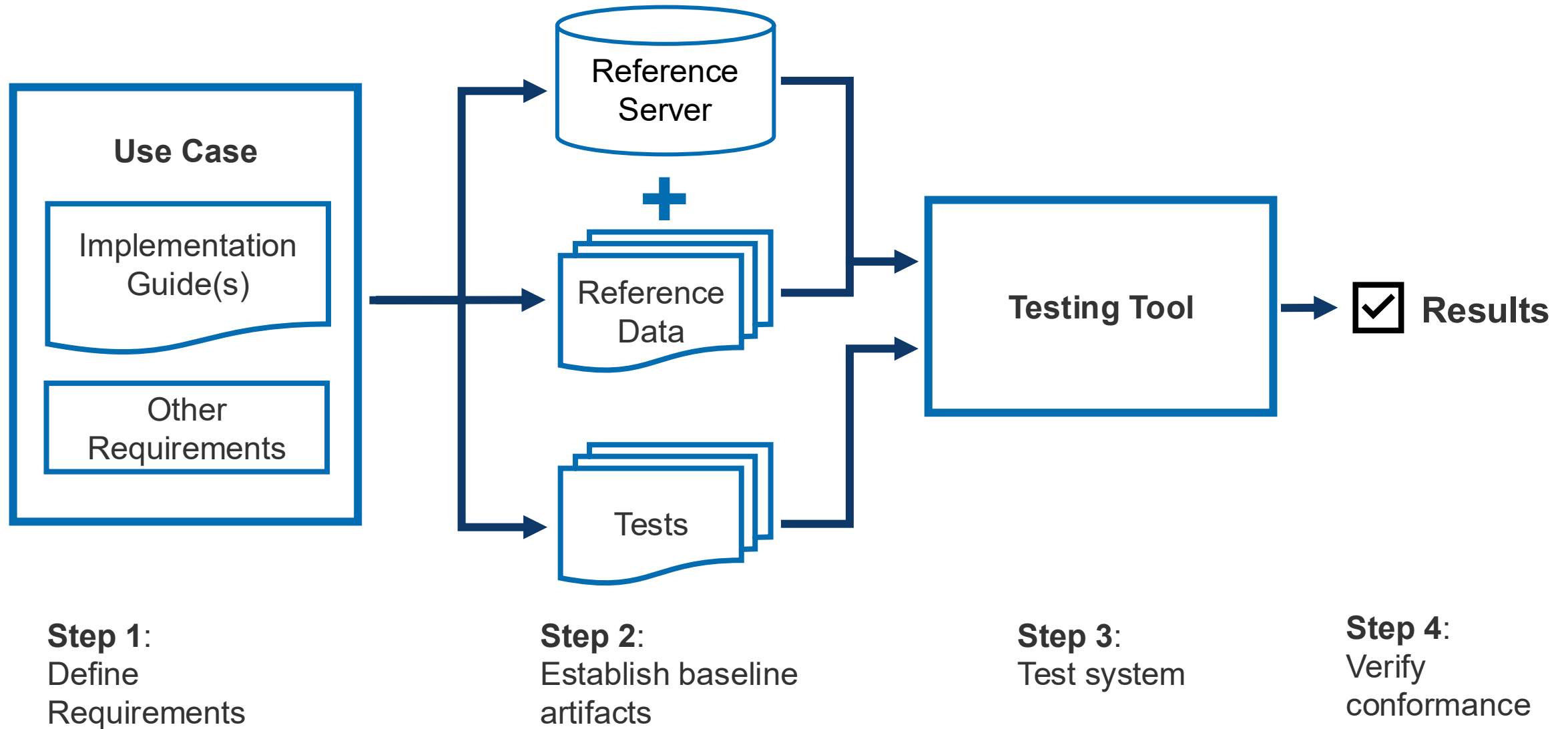
ONC / CMS Policy and Tool Alignment



Inferno Testing Concepts

Scott Bohon, Certification and Testing

Testing Workflow



Inferno Testing Overview



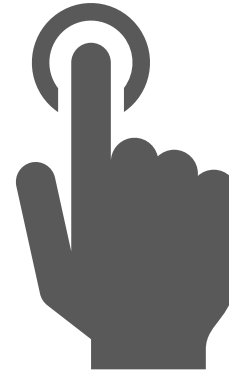
Certification Testing

Inferno is an official testing tool for the ONC Certification Program



HL7[®] FHIR[®] Testing

Designed to test FHIR[®], including US Core, Da Vinci Burden Reduction, and more!



Interactive & Automated

Inferno tests support both graphical user interfaces and automated machine interfaces



Open Source & Transparent

Freely available code and documentation for open and accessible testing

Writing Health API Tests with Inferno Framework

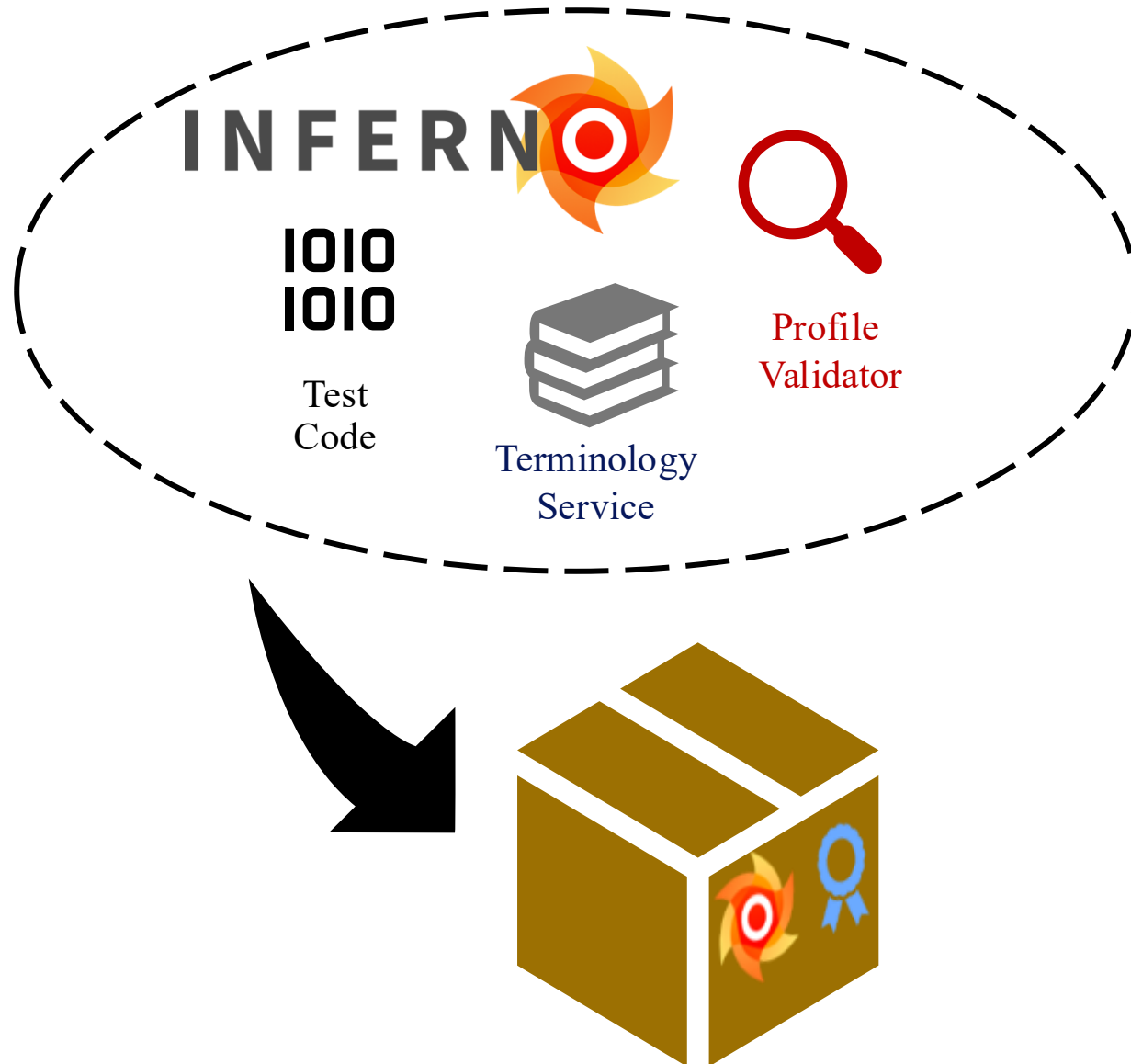


Inferno testing is built using the “Inferno Framework” including:

- a programming language tailored to writing FHIR[®] tests
- web, API, and command line interfaces for accessible testing

Inferno’s extensive testing capabilities are enabled using the fully-featured Ruby programming language

Packaging Tests into Inferno Test Kits



Inferno tests are packaged into “Test Kits” for specific use cases

Usually focus on FHIR[®] IGs or ONC Certification Program requirements

Examples:

- US Core Test Kit
- (g)(10) certification criterion Test Kit

Test Kits can be deployed locally or available online at:

<https://inferno.HealthIT.gov>

Da Vinci Project Implementation Guide Inferno Test Kits

Da Vinci Payer
Data Exchange
(PDEX)

PDEX US Drug
Formulary

PDEX Plan Net

Coverage
Requirements
Discovery
(CRD)

Documentation
Templates and
Rules (DTR)

Prior
Authorization
Support (PAS)

Many other Inferno Test Kits Currently Available

(g)(10) Standardized API	Service Base URL (HTI-1)	US Core	SMART App Launch
SMART Health Cards: Vaccination & Testing	SMART Scheduling Links	UDAP Security	International Patient Summary (IPS)
International Patient Access (IPA)	UDS+	Subscriptions	Bulk Data Access

... and more on Inferno Test Kit Registry at <https://inferno-framework.github.io/community/test-kits.html>

Inferno Resources and Feedback

Resources for more information

- Unsure of where to start with Inferno? → Inferno.HealthIT.gov
- For list of available Inferno Test Kits → [Inferno Test Kit Registry](#)
- For ONC Certification Program related Test Kit source code → [ONC GitHub repositories](#)
- For Inferno Framework and voluntary, self-assessment Test Kit source code → [Inferno Framework GitHub repositories](#)
- For learning about technology underlying Inferno and writing your own tests → [Inferno Framework Documentation](#)

Feedback or questions about an Inferno Test Kit?

- Test Kit technical issue or feedback → submit an issue on the Test Kit GitHub repository
- Alternative channel for discussion and feedback → [#inferno channel on chat.fhir.org](#)
- ONC Certification Program testing questions → [Health IT Feedback and Inquiry Portal](#)

Inferno Testing Release for CRD v2.2.1

Inferno Testing Release for CRD v2.2.1 IG

Inferno CRD v2.2.1 implementation guide testing for provider and payer systems available now!

- Online at Inferno.HealthIT.gov
- Open-source code on GitHub: [inferno-framework/davinci-crd-test-kit](https://github.com/inferno-framework/davinci-crd-test-kit)
- Wiki for how to start using these tests: [Inferno CRD Wiki](#)
- Demonstration of Inferno CRD Test Kit: [demonstration](#)

These CRD tests are designed to test conformance to baseline IG requirements, and do not reflect all ONC Certification Program requirements.

Certification testing for CRD requirements in the ONC Certification Program are forthcoming.

Inferno CRD v2.2.1 IG Testing Key Features

Provider Systems test suite

- Registration
- CDS Hooks invocation
 - Authentication
 - Prefetch support
 - Request conformance
- US Core FHIR API

Payer Systems test suite

- Metadata discovery
 - Supported hooks
 - Prefetch
- CDS Hooks response
 - Response conformance
 - US Core profile support

CRD v2.2.1 in the ONC Certification Program

CRD v2.2.1 in the ONC Certification Program and SVAP 2026

CRD in the ONC Certification Program

- The § 170.315(g)(31) *Provider prior authorization API – coverage requirements discovery* criterion references requirements from the CRD IG.
- The § 170.315(g)(31) criterion focuses on CRD requirements for provider systems

CRD v2.2.1 is adopted in SVAP 2026

- CRD v2.2.1 is available for certification to the § 170.315(g)(31) criterion
- Inferno certification tests for § 170.315(g)(31) using CRD v2.2.1 are planned for release around September 2026
- Developers can use currently released Inferno CRD v2.2.1 IG tests to help prepare for the upcoming § 170.315(g)(31) certification tests.

CRD in the Test Procedure for the § 170.315(g)(31) criterion

§ 170.315(g)(31) Test Procedure focuses on testing that the Health IT Module supports capabilities as a “CRD Client”

- **Registration with CRD Server**
- **Discovery of CRD Client capabilities using a “CRD Client Capability Statement.”**
- **Support the “order-sign” CDS Hook and “Coverage Information” system actions from a “CRD Server”.**
- **Triggering required CDS Hooks** at the appropriate points in a clinical workflow.
- **Authentication as a client** with a “CRD Server” using JSON web tokens (JWT).
- **Authorization of a “CRD Server”** to have FHIR Resource access to enable required CDS Hooks, including provisioning an access token.
- **FHIR resource access to enable required CDS Hooks**, including “read” and “search” support for FHIR resources.
- **Processing of “Coverage Information” system actions** received from a “CRD Server” including updating applicable FHIR resources in the Health IT Module.

Certification and Testing Resources

ONC Certification Program Resources

ONC Certification Program overview → [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov)

SVAP 2026 adopted standards → [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov)

§ 170.315(g)(31) criterion requirements and clarifications → [§ 170.315\(g\)\(31\) Certification Companion Guide](#)

§ 170.315(g)(31) criterion Test Procedure → [§ 170.315\(g\)\(31\) Test Procedure](#)

ONC Certification Program testing questions → [Health IT Feedback and Inquiry Portal](#)

HTI-4 Final Rule for background context about electronic prior authorization criteria → [HealthIT.gov](#) & [Federal Register](#)

Inferno Testing Resources

CRD v2.2.1 Implementation Guide tests → [Inferno.HealthIT.gov](#)

Test Kit technical issue or feedback → submit an issue on the [CRD Test Kit GitHub repository](#)

Channel for Inferno testing discussion and feedback → [#inferno channel on chat.fhir.org](#)

§ 170.315(g)(31) certification tests for CRD v2.2.1 → in development, planned release around September 2026

Demonstration of Resources

ONC at the July 2026 CMS HL7® FHIR Connectathon

July 14 – 16, 2026

ONC is excited to support and participate in the **7th Annual CMS HL7® FHIR Connectathon**, taking place **July 14–16, 2026**. This free, virtual event brings together interoperability leaders, implementers, and innovators for three days of hands-on testing, collaboration, and real world FHIR implementation.

In support of ONC's continued commitment to advancing high quality, standards-based data exchange, ONC will be actively engaged throughout the Connectathon—including supporting implementer testing of electronic prior authorization workflows and a featured session focused on strengthening quality measurement interoperability.

[July 2026 CMS HL7® FHIR Connectathon
Confluence page](#)



ONC

Reach out via phone or web



202-690-7151



Feedback Form: <https://www.healthit.gov/form/healthit-feedback-form>

Stay connected, follow us on socials



@onc_healthIT



[Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/user/HHSONC>

Subscribe to our weekly eblast at healthit.gov for the latest updates!