

## Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: ASTP/ONC Deregulatory Actions to Unleash Prosperity (HTI-5) Proposed Rule Fact Sheet

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The Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy / Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ASTP/ONC) officially [published](#) the *Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: ASTP/ONC Deregulatory Actions to Unleash Prosperity (HTI-5) Proposed Rule* on December 29, 2025 with a 60-day comment period.

Released in response to [Executive Order 14192](#), the proposed rule focuses on deregulatory actions identified in existing HHS regulations regarding health information technology standards, implementation specifications, certification criteria and certification programs for health information technology, and information blocking.

ASTP/ONC created a [landing page](#) for HTI-5 that contains the [press release](#) announcing the rule, a [fact sheet](#), [summary of changes](#) to certification criteria, and a [video briefing](#) outlining key provisions of the rule.

### Background

The proposed rule aims to account for the current and future state of technology by aligning the [Health IT Certification Program](#) with the changing health IT landscape. Additionally, if finalized, the proposed rule seeks to reduce burden by eliminating redundant regulations, while promoting innovation in the technology space for developers, providers, and interested parties.

FHIR standards and FHIR APIs are a continuing focus for ASTP/ONC and many of the proposals in the rule look to increase their use. ASTP/ONC indicates the proposals enable the agency to “reset” the Certification Program’s regulatory scope and establish a new foundation to build FHIR-based API regulations. Enabling interactions between the APIs and artificial intelligence (AI) will be a piece of the revised Certification Program in the future, with additional API priorities that enhance automation and API performance moving beyond read-only interactions, and expanding the scope of data availability to support clinical efficiency, patient-centered care, and timely reporting use cases.

The proposed rule also contains provisions impacting the information blocking program. While minor, the changes alter some of the new exceptions codified under the [HTI-2 final rule](#), including the Manner Exhausted Exception and the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Manner Exception. Other tweaks to the program include revisions to the access and use definitions to assist with compliance activities for covered actors.

## Key Provisions of the Proposed Rule

- Removal of 34 of the 60 criteria contained within the Health IT Certification Program and the revision of an additional seven criteria.
  - A majority of the removals have an effective date coinciding with the effective date of the final rule, but several have an effective date of January 1, 2027.
- Adoption of United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) version 3.1.
  - Changes to version 3.1 include the removal or update of the sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity data elements in compliance with [Executive Order 14168](#).
- Descoping of several Conditions and Maintenance of Certification criteria, including changes to requirements related to real-world testing plans, results, and the use of the Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP).
- Changes to the information blocking program, including:
  - Revisions to the “access” and “use” definitions to emphasize that the definitions cover automated means of access, exchange, or use of electronic health information (EHI), such as autonomous AI systems;
  - Changes to the Infeasibility Exception including removal of the third-party seeking modification use condition and removal or revision of the manner exception exhausted condition;
  - Changes to the Manner Exception to revise the manner requested condition; and
  - Removal of the TEFCA Manner Exception.

## Withdrawal of Remaining HTI-2 Proposals

ASTP/ONC also [published a notice](#) withdrawing the remaining unfinalized proposals from the HTI-2 proposed rule published in 2024. The withdrawn proposals include:

- Adoption of USCDI version 4 and corresponding changes to the Health IT Certification Program to implement USCDI version 4.
- Changes to the Health IT Certification Program to support the access, exchange, and use of diagnostic images via imaging links, computerized provider order entry, and public health data exchange.
- Privacy and security related proposals focused on encryption and decryption of EHI and the encryption of authentication credentials.