# ONC's CURES ACT **FINAL RULE**

The rule calls on the healthcare industry to adopt standardized FHIR Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), which will allow individuals to securely and easily access structured electronic health information (EHI) using smartphone applications.

ONC's latest regulation, 2015 Cures Update, aims to upgrade and align the 2015 Edition Certification with the Cures Act's mandates. Within the next 2 years, EHRs that plan to get ONC certified need to comply with a host of new requirements, including EHI export, information blocking, maintenance of certification, and adoption of FHIR standard.

PATIENT

PROVIDERS

POLICY MAKERS

HEALTH DEVELOPERS
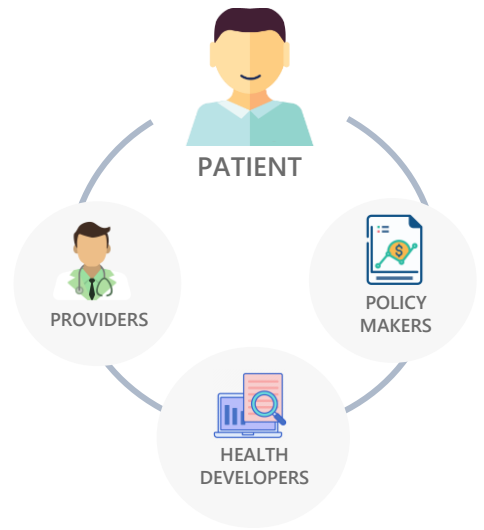
Final Rule: Highlights

FHIR® Release 4 Adoption

The final rule adopts FHIR release 4 as the foundational standard for exchange of patient information, as defined in the USCDI v1 dataset, via APIs with proper consent, authentication, and authorization for any patient app to access information.

Health IT Certification Program

EHR vendors must have HL7 FHIR API and other 21st Century Cures required criteria rolled out in the next 24-36 months, to be eligible for ONC's Cures Certification. It will need significant changes in the EHR data and communication models.

Other Key Changes

EHR vendors will also need to makes several changes, including implementation of SMART-on-FHIR app launch framework, OpenID Connect / OAuth2 for authentication and authorization, and development of real-world testing plans.

Impact on EHR Vendors & HIT Systems

Development of new capabilities such as FHIR module, EHI export module, and upgradation of patient datasets to USCDI v1.

Risk of decertification due to information blocking or non-compliance with maintenance of certification program.

Review existing contracts and workflows to avoid information blocking.

Additional operational overheads for retention of health records (10 years), trainings, real-world test plan design, and submissions.

Increased ONC oversight of real-world testing and reporting of certification's performance, with additional EHR reporting criteria to be notified in future rulemaking.

🏅 CitiusTech: ONC Certification for EHRs

CitiusTech's FAST+ solution offers a host of accelerators such as FHIR adapters, artifacts library, cloud-agnostic data models, SMART-on-FHIR framework, and app suite to enable client solutions to comply with the final rule's interoperability and other mandates.

500+
HL7 & FHIR Certified Professionals

25+
FHIR & SMART-on-FHIR Projects

10+
EHRs ONC Certified

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