
Definition of a Health Information Network

February 23, 2021



Oregon
Health
Authority

Health Information Network

Defined in the ONC 21st Century Cures Act final rule at <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-07419/p-1775>

“A health information network or health information exchange means an individual or entity that determines, controls, or has the discretion to administer any requirement, policy, or agreement that permits, enables, or requires the use of any technology or services for access, exchange, or use of EHI: (1) Among more than two unaffiliated individuals or entities (other than the individual or entity to which this definition might apply) that are enabled to exchange with each other; and (2) that is for a treatment, payment, or health care operations purpose”

Three tests for being an HIN...

- What?** Determines, controls, or has the discretion to administer any requirement, policy, or agreement that permits, enables, or requires use of any technology or services for access, exchange, or use of EHI
- Who?** Among more than two unaffiliated individuals or entities (other than the individual or entity that might be the HIN)
- Why?** For a treatment, payment, or health care operations

Patient Access API vs Information Blocking

Patient Access API

Which rule: CMS Interop and Patient Access

What data: claims, encounters, clinical data maintained and in the USCDI

Applies to: CMS-regulated entities (all of which are payers)

Share with: Patients

Share via: Patient app using FHIR

Starting: 1 July 2021

Information Blocking

Which rule: ONC 21st Century Cures Act

What data: EHI, initially the USCDI but expanding over time

Applies to: HIT developers, health care providers, HINs

Share with: Patients, providers, and payers

Share via: Unspecified

Starting: 5 April 2021