ONC Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

Update from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT

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Chief of Staff

October 2026

Priorities for 2026+



Data Liquidity



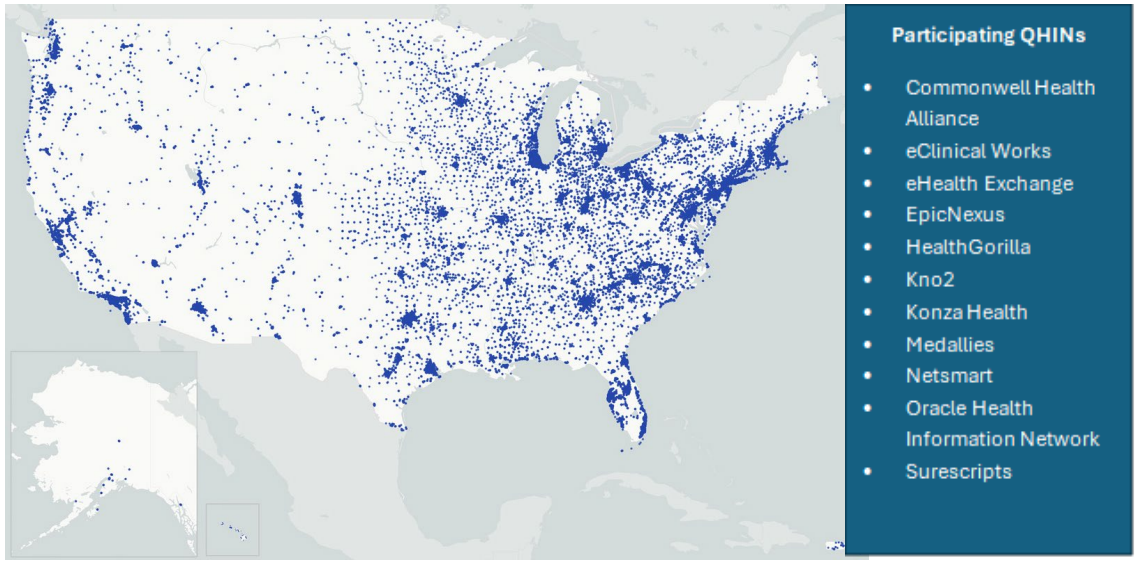
Access and Affordability



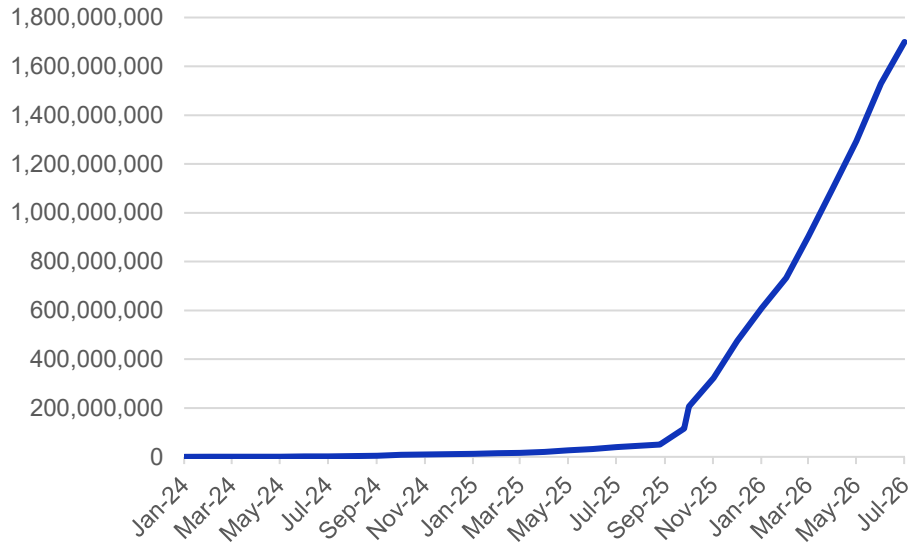
Technology Evolution

Growing TEFCA

107,000+
connections



Over 2 Billion
documents exchanged



A Foundation We Can Build On



TEFCA
Trusted nationwide exchange



INFORMATION BLOCKING
Information should move



CERTIFICATION
Common capabilities

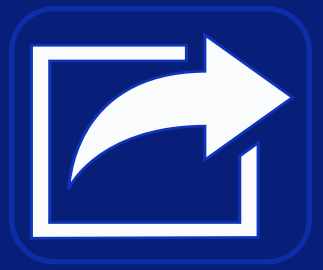


STANDARDS
A common language

BETTER HEALTH CARE

- More affordable
- Less burdensome
- More empowering
- More intelligent

HTI-4 Final Rule Advances Healthcare Access and Affordability



Electronic Prior Authorization



Real-Time Prescription Benefit Capabilities

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Enhancing the health and well-being of all Americans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2025

Contact: HHS Press Office
202-690-6343
Submit a Request for Comment

Americans to Gain New Access to Real-Time Prescription Drug Price Information

Trump Administration announces forthcoming changes to ease approval of physician-approved treatments and inform patients up-front of the most appropriate and lowest cost prescription drugs

Today, leaders at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are celebrating a regulatory breakthrough that will give doctors and their patients unprecedented real-time access to prescription drug information. The reform will help them identify the most appropriate, cost-effective treatments while preventing health insurers from blocking physician-approved care. Thanks to this rule change taking effect October 1, millions of Americans for the first time will be able to compare drug prices, view out-of-pocket costs, and access prior authorization requirements.

HHS' final rule ensures that health care providers using certified health IT systems are able to submit prior authorizations electronically, select drugs consistent with a patient's insurance coverage, and exchange electronic prescription information with pharmacies and insurance plans. It complements important policies advanced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in recent years and expands interoperability for patients, health care providers, and payers to ease administrative burdens. The rule was finalized through the HHS Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ASTP/ONC).

This victory for the American people follows a June 2025 roundtable meeting between Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz, Director of Medicare Chris Klomp, and major health insurers covering nearly eight in 10 Americans. Health insurers pledged six key reforms to cut red tape, accelerate care decisions, and enhance transparency for patients and providers participating in Medicare Advantage, Medicaid Managed Care, Medicare Part D, Health Insurance Marketplace® and commercial plans.

Behavioral Health Information Technology (BHIT) Initiative

The $20M+ SAMHSA/ONC partnership, began in 2024, and aims to address the need for improved **data exchange** in behavioral healthcare settings. The BHIT Initiative will...



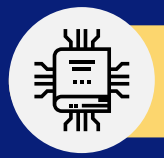
USCDI+BH Data Elements

Establish data content standards for EHRs and health information technology (HIT) that improves efficiency and reduces the cost to adopt technology by removing low-value customization.



Pilots

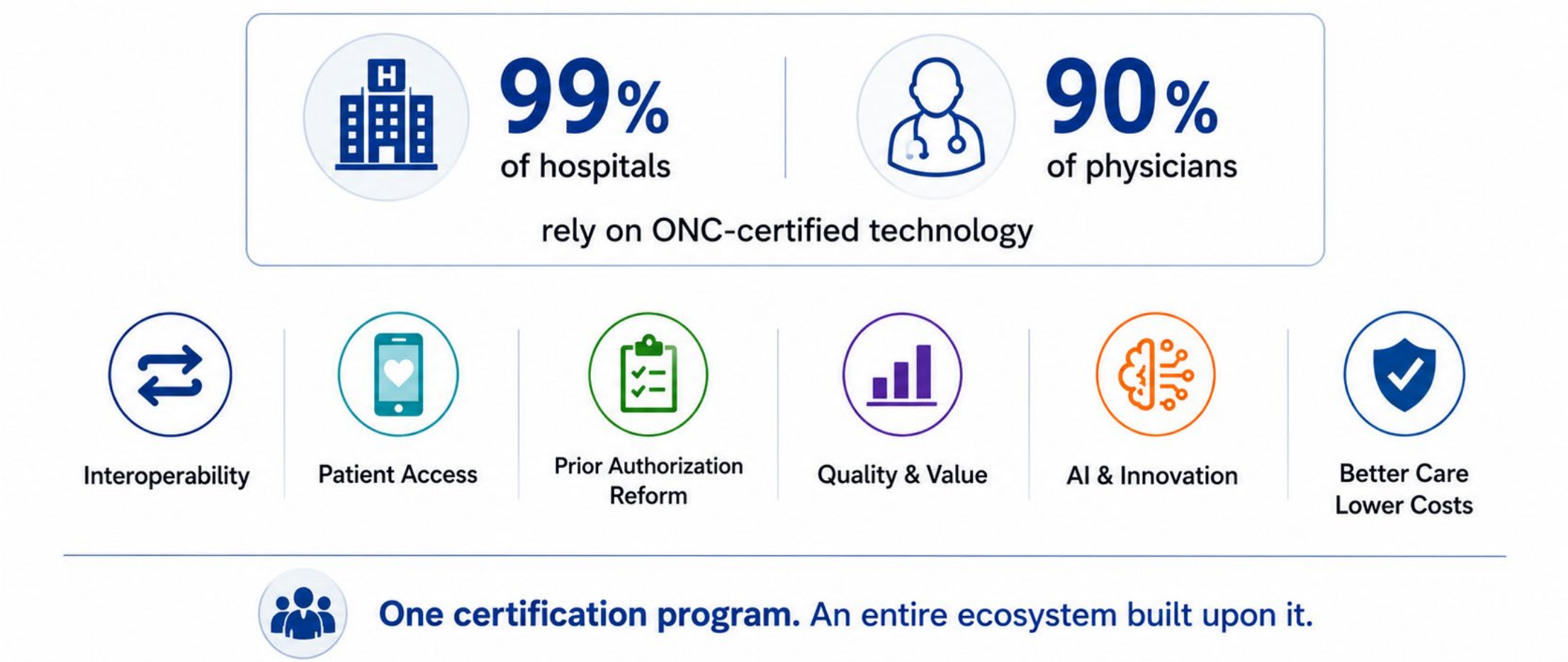
Pilot the standards in the real world to further lower barriers to implement, pairing the standards with clinical workflows, and demonstrating the efficacy of the standard to the BH community.



BHIR

Develop a practical Behavioral Health Informational Resource (BHIR) using the lessons learned (e.g., clinical, technology, policy) during standards development and the real-world pilots that will lower the cost to implement EHRs and HIT for future BH providers.

ONC Health IT Certification Program



Technology Evolution



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