



Office of the National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology

INFORMATION BLOCKING

Resources for Stakeholders

Most healthcare information is digitized, accessible, and shareable thanks to several technology and policy advances making interoperable, electronic health record systems widely available. In 2016, the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act) made sharing electronic health information the expected norm in health care by authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify, “reasonable and necessary activities that do not constitute information blocking.” ONC’s 2020 Cures Act Final Rule established information blocking exceptions to implement the law.

Information Blocking Resources

In order to education the healthcare community about the Cures Rule’s requirements, ONC continues to develop fact sheets, frequently asked questions (FAQs), blogs, and educational events including webinars and listening sessions. We also urge stakeholders to subscribe to our weekly eblast and follow ONC on Twitter ([@ONC_HealthIT](#)) and [LinkedIn](#) for notification of new content being made available.



Fact Sheets

ONC’s Regulatory Affairs team has developed a series of fact sheets that provide clear, concise information on various topics related to the Cures Rule.



[Information Blocking Definition](#)

[Information Blocking Terms Defined](#)

[Information Blocking Actors](#)

[Health Care Provider Definition](#)

[Information Blocking Exceptions](#)

[Highlighted Regulatory Dates –
Information Blocking Provisions](#)

[United States Core Data for Interoperability v1](#)

(from April 5, 2021, until October 6, 2022, the information blocking definition is limited to the subset of EHI represented by data elements identified by the USCDI v1).

[Understanding Electronic Health Information \(EHI\)](#)

[Understanding the Scope of Electronic Health Information \(EHI\) for the Purposes of the Information Blocking Definition](#)

[Information Blocking Portal Process](#)

FAQs

ONC reviews all messages that are received in its [Health IT Feedback Portal](#). While we do not have the capacity or authority to respond to individual questions, we are able to provide broad, clarifying answers to frequently asked questions to assist stakeholders with implementing and complying with the Cures Rule. Check back regularly as we develop new FAQs on an ongoing basis. Information Blocking FAQs currently fall into the following categories.



[Information Blocking – General](#)

[Exceptions – General](#)

[Actors](#)

[Interference](#)

[Content and Manner Exception](#)

[Preventing Harm Exception](#)

[Electronic Health Information](#)

[Reporting Claims of Information Blocking](#)

[Enforcement](#)

Blogs

Stakeholders can learn more about ONC’s work related to information blocking and the Cures Rule by reading our blog. We regularly post content about all of our work and encourage regular visits for the latest information.



[Power to the Patient:](#)

[Our Record, Our Right, Our Choice](#)

Steven Posnack | March 12, 2020

[Information Blocking Through the Eyes of Health Information Exchanges](#)

Vaishali Patel | May 10, 2021

[Pssst...Information blocking practices, your days are numbered...Pass it on.](#)

Steven Posnack | December 16, 2020

[Moving ahead on Information Sharing](#)

Micky Tripathi | September 16, 2021

[To share or not to share, what’s an exception \(to information blocking\)?](#)

Steven Posnack | December 16, 2020

[Information Sharing After the 21st Century Cures Act](#)

Steven Posnack | November 16, 2021

[A New Day for Interoperability – The Information Blocking Regulations Start Now](#)

Micky Tripathi and Steve Posnack | April 5, 2021

[Say Hi to EHI](#)

Kathryn Marchesini | December 20, 2021



Webinars

ONC has hosted dozens of webinars and listening sessions for our stakeholders about information blocking and Cures Rule implementation. View the slides to learn more and take time to listen to the recorded webinar to enrich your understanding of these important topics.

What Healthcare Providers Need to Know About Information Sharing & the Information Blocking Regulation (Webinar #3) | February 2, 2022

[View Recorded Webinar](#)

[View Webinar Slides](#)

Information Blocking FAQs | February 4, 2021

[View Recorded Webinar](#)

[View Webinar Slides](#)

What Healthcare Providers Need to Know About Information Sharing & the Information Blocking Regulation (Webinar #2) | November 17, 2021

[View Recorded Webinar](#)

[View Webinar Slides](#)

Information Blocking Q&A | April 8, 2020

[View Recorded Webinar](#)

[View Webinar Slides](#)

What Healthcare Providers Need to Know About Information Sharing & the Information Blocking Regulation Webinar #1) | September 14, 2021

[View Recorded Webinar](#)

[View Webinar Slides](#)

Information Blocking | March 16, 2020

[View Recorded Webinar](#)

[View Webinar Slides](#)

Certification

For health IT developers who participate in the ONC Health IT Certification Program, the Cures Act requires ONC to establish certain Conditions and Maintenance of Certification requirements. Per these Conditions and Maintenance of Certification, a health IT developer who participates in the ONC Health IT Certification Program may not take any action that constitutes “information blocking” as defined in Section 3022(a) of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) and 45 CFR 171.103.



[View the Conditions and Maintenance of Certification](#)

[Learn more about Certification of Health IT](#)

