

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

CMS® and The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) have made two important rules concerning API use¹:

1. **CERTIFIED EHR VENDORS MUST** include an open API to allow patients to access their data via any application that uses the API standards. Your EHR is using FHIR® to meet that requirement.
2. **HOSPITALS/PROVIDERS MUST:**
 - A. Allow patients to access their health information using any application of their choice that uses FHIR.
 - B. Provide patients with detailed instructions on how to authenticate their access through the FHIR app and provide the patient with supplemental information on available applications that use FHIR.
 - C. Offer patients access to their data via FHIR apps within specific timelines indicated below:
 - Promoting Interoperability Eligible Hospitals - within 36 hours of discharge
 - Medicaid Eligible Professionals - within 48 hours of the information being available
 - MIPS Promoting Interoperability Eligible Clinicians - within 4 business days of the information being available

Q: WHAT'S AN API?

A: An Application Programming Interface is a set of standards to allow the flow of information from one system into another system. An example is the electrical outlet. The outlets are built to a specific standard. If an appliance plug is built with those standards, electricity will flow from the outlet into the appliance.



Q: WHAT'S FHIR?

A: Fast Health Interoperability Resources is an API standard for exchanging electronic health records. It was developed by an international standards organization (HL7)[®] and is used globally.

1. https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Downloads/MedicaidEPStage3_Obj5.pdf