



Behavioral Health IT Update

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare 2024 Annual Meeting

Steve Posnack, Deputy National Coordinator



2 **ONC Mission & Vision and 2024 Priorities:**



MISSION and VISION


The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is at the forefront of the federal government's digital health efforts. ONC supports the entire health system with the use of health IT and the promotion of nationwide, standards-based health information exchange.


MISSION: To create systemic improvements in health and care through the access, exchange, and use of data.

VISION: Better health enabled by data.

PRIORITIES

-  **Build the digital foundation**
 - Data standards
 - Health IT gaps
 - HHS Health IT Alignment Policy

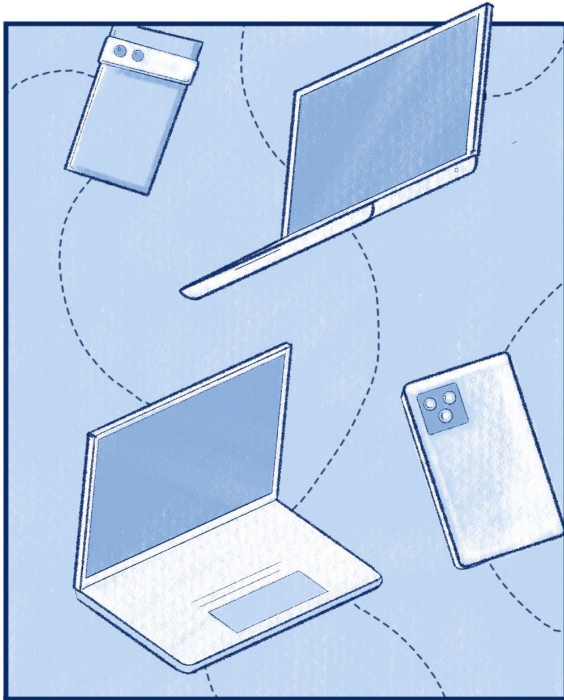
-  **Make interoperability easy**
 - TEFCA
 - APIs
 - Expand education and outreach
 - Enforce information blocking rules

-  **Ensure proper use of digital information and tools**
 - Health equity by design principles for data capture and use
 - Transparency in areas such as algorithm use and safety

ONC's Core Activities

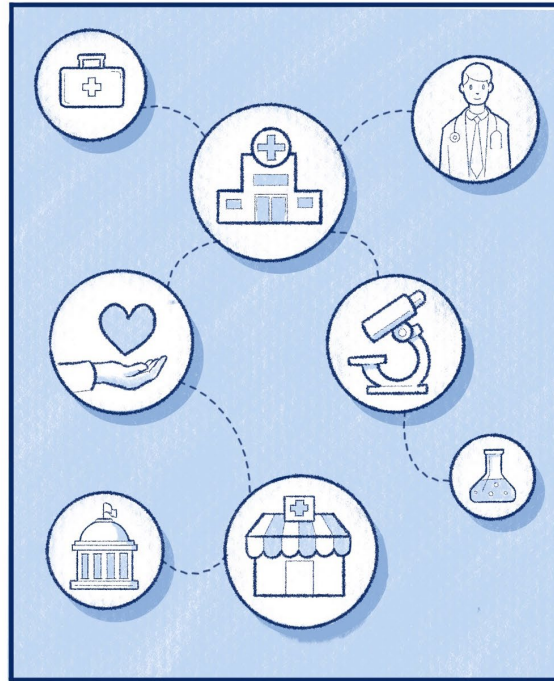


ONC's Health IT Certification Program



Almost every hospital and nearly a half million clinicians use health IT certified by ONC's Health IT Certification Program.

Trusted Exchange Framework & Common Agreement



Went live in December 2023. Networks cover most U.S. hospitals, tens of thousands of providers, and process transactions at nationwide scale.

Health Data Standards



The USCDI is a standardized set of health data classes and elements used by most hospitals and providers for nationwide, interoperable health information exchange.

Industry Coordination



ONC coordinates with federal partners and the private sector through a variety of formal mechanisms focusing on a wide array of high-priority use cases.

Health Equity

- Close-loop referral with social services organizations
- SDOH/REL/SOGI data capture
- Health equity by design concept paper

Patient Access

- Health information electronically accessible to patients
- Real-time access to test results
- Use of smartphone apps to access and use data

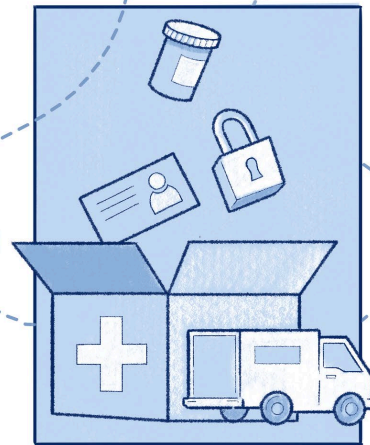


Public Health

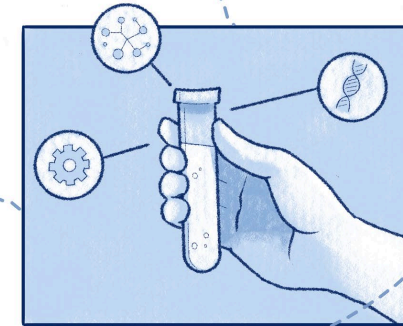
- CDC's Data Modernization Initiative
- Bidirectional exchange with public health

Healthcare Delivery

- Improved patient safety
- Better care coordination
- New workflows and automation possibilities



ONC's Impact



Health Research

- Clinical trials
- Cancer Moonshot

Competition and Choice

- New services for providers and patients built on a digital health ecosystem

SAMHSA/ONC Behavioral Health Information Technology (BHIT) Initiative

1- Develop USCDI+ for Behavioral Health

- ONC will identify and pilot a set of behavioral health-specific data elements with SAMHSA grantees that will:
 - Be coordinated via a new United States Core Data for Interoperability+ (USCDI+) domain for behavioral health, and
 - Improve effectiveness and reduce costs of data capture, use, and exchange for behavioral health providers.

2- Publish a Behavioral Health Informational Resource

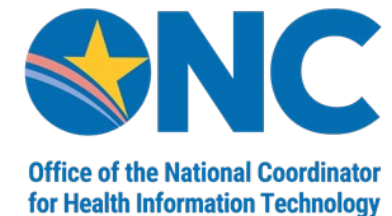
- Initiative will support those who wish to use USCDI+BH by:
 - Providing specific details helpful for implementation, such as information on the use of health IT to address behavioral health priorities;
 - Supporting improved workflows; and
 - Providing technical information regarding integration across behavioral health care settings.

3- Provide Technical Assistance

- ONC will provide technical assistance to SAMHSA grantee pilot participants.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$20 million in SAMHSA funding over 42 months
- SAMHSA/ONC partnership
- Supports health IT for mental health and substance use care

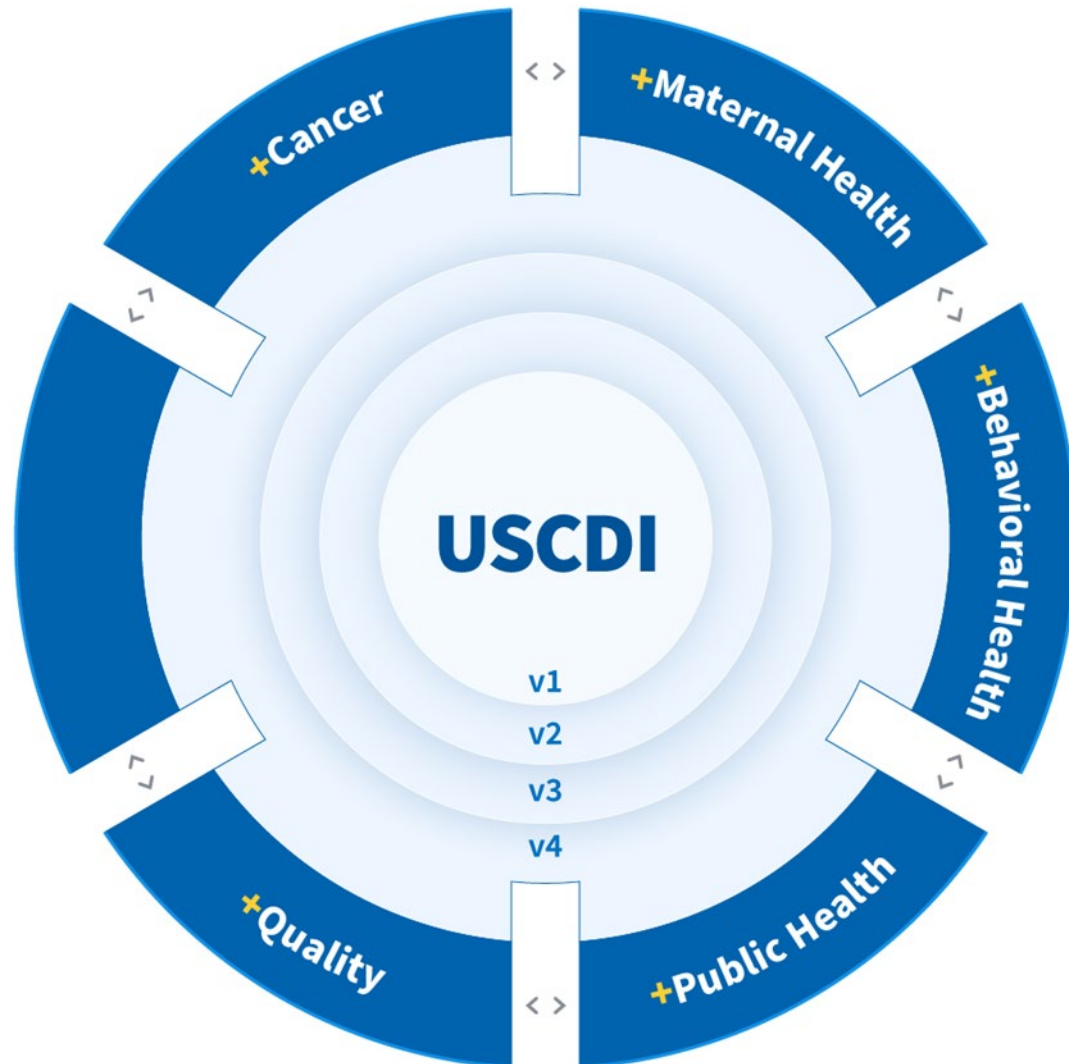


USCDI: Transparent, Predictable, Collaborative

- **USCDI v1** is required by Cures Act Final Rule and added data classes clinical notes and provenance, and data elements pediatric vital signs and address
- **USCDI v2** added three data classes and 22 data elements in support of advancing health equity (SOGI and SDOH)
- **USCDI v3** added 24 data elements focused on factors promoting equity, reducing disparities and supporting public health data interoperability.
 - Required in HTI-1, effective January 1, 2026
- **USCDI v4** added Alcohol and Substance Use Assessments, Physical Activity, Treatment Intervention and Care Experience Preferences, and Medication Adherence data elements
- **Draft USCDI v5** proposes 13 new data elements and two new classes, Orders and Observations. Proposed elements include Advance Directive Observation, Pronoun, Sex Parameter for Clinical Use, Pronoun, and Name to Use.

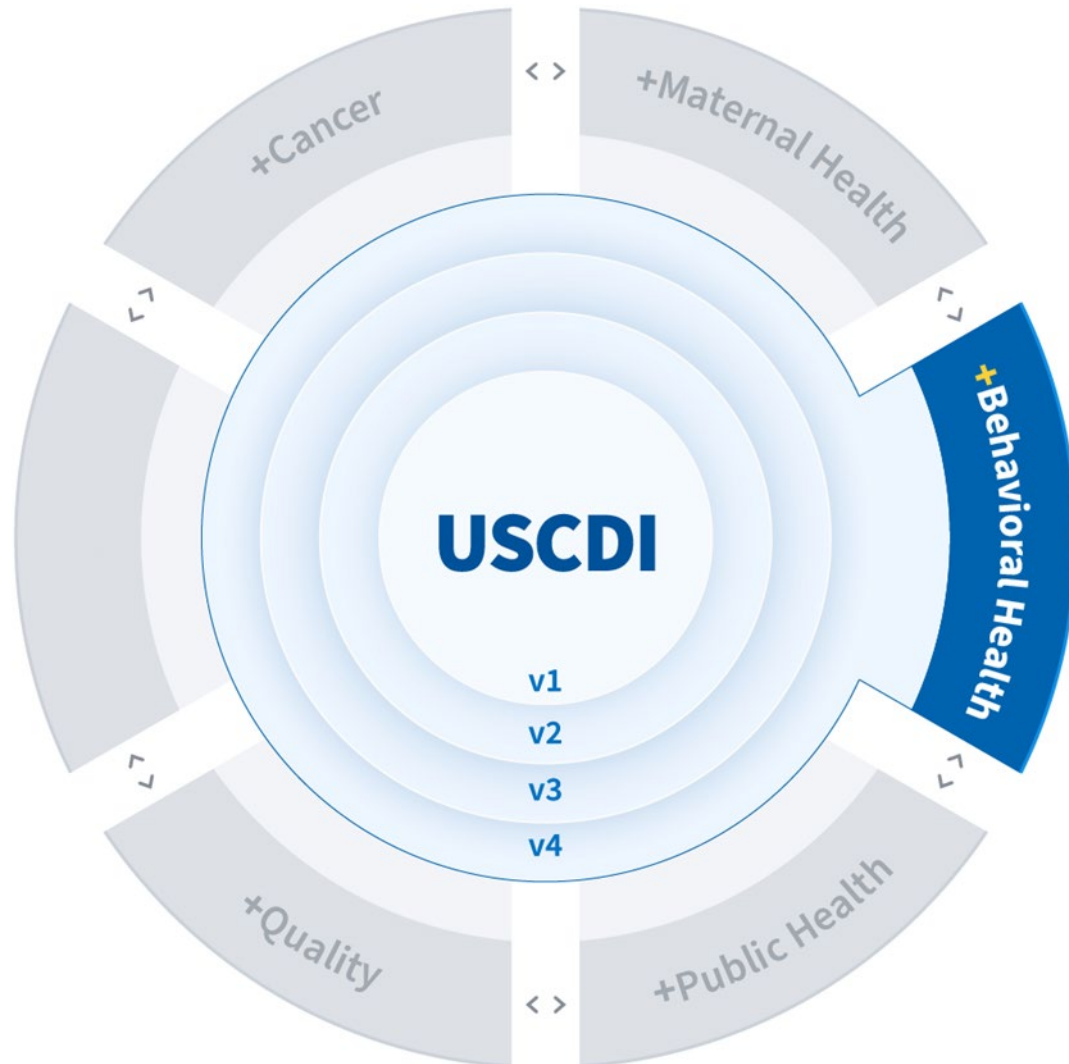
USCDI v1 Summary of Data Classes and Data Elements	USCDI v2 Summary of Data Classes and Data Elements	USCDI v3 Summary of Data Classes and Data Elements	USCDI v4 Summary of Data Classes and Data Elements	Draft USCDI v5 Summary of Data Classes and Elements
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USCDI+: Extending Beyond the USCDI



- Unique program and use case-specific data needs are sometimes not fully met by USCDI.
- ONC's USCDI+ initiative helps government and industry partners build on USCDI to support specific program needs.
- Applies USCDI processes for submission and harmonization while focusing on programmatic priorities.
- Seeks to leverage programs and authorities across HHS to drive adoption.

USCDI+: Behavioral Health



- Capture the data needs for Behavioral Health reporting that fall outside the scope of USCDI to support streamlined development and reporting of integrated BH data.
- Identify opportunities for policy alignment around BH reporting and integrated care across HHS agencies.
- Support SAMHSA's [Data Strategy](#) to modernize BH reporting and improve interoperability across the care continuum.



2024 Leading Edge Acceleration Projects (LEAP)



Purpose of LEAP funding opportunities

- To address well-documented and fast emerging challenges that inhibit the development, use, and/or advancement of well-designed, interoperable health IT.
- Expected to further a new generation of health IT development and inform the innovative implementation and refinement of standards, methods, and techniques for overcoming major barriers and challenges as they are identified.

Areas of interest

- Area 1: Develop innovative ways to evaluate and improve the quality of healthcare data used by artificial intelligence (AI) tools in healthcare
 - Goal: Develop scalable solutions that can evaluate and improve the quality of healthcare data available in electronic health records (EHRs) that are used by AI tools.
- Area 2: Accelerate adoption of health IT in behavioral health
 - Goal: Support the development of lightweight health IT solutions, using open standards, that can enhance health IT capabilities in behavioral health settings with limited technical and financial resources and improve care coordination between behavioral health and clinical healthcare settings.

Timeline

- **Anticipated Award Date:** Fall 2024, up to \$1 million for each area over two-year period.



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Health IT Feedback Form:

<https://www.healthit.gov/form/healthit-feedback-form>



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