



Drummond's Pediatric Health IT Certification Program – *A Call to Action for Pediatrics Practitioners*

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has developed voluntary certification criteria unique to health information technology (IT) used in the care of children. As a response to the 21st Century Cures Act, passed in 2016, the ONC published 10 recommendations for Pediatric Health IT Voluntary Certification Criteria along with two pediatrics-focused informational resources for health IT.¹

Dr. Sandy Chung, president-elect, American Academy of Pediatrics, applauded the ONC action in a commentary titled, "Pediatric Health Information Technology – What We need for Optimal Care of Children," but noted that a key next step is **voluntary certification** of vendor technology for these recommended criteria:

These criteria address many issues including datasets for pediatrics, growth charts, weight-based dosing, data segmentation, immunization tracking, and flags for special health care needs. With the criteria created, the next step will be putting in the necessary incentives for vendors to become voluntarily certified. With the ever-changing landscape of health information technology (IT), vendors have competing priorities and the need to become pediatric-certified must come from market and governmental pressures.²

As the leading Authorized Certification Body (ACB) and an Accredited Test Lab (ATL) for the ONC Health IT Certification Program, Drummond announced a new voluntary pediatrics health IT certification program (launched Fall 2022). This program is designed to test and certify health IT software against the ONC's 10 pediatric recommendations and a more comprehensive set of additional criteria sourced from an analysis of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) – "Children's EHR Format 2015 Priority List" and the recently published "HL7 EHR-S FM R2.1 Functional Profile: Pediatric Health Care IT, Release 1- US Realm."³

An expert advisory panel of leading pediatric EHR vendor representatives, practitioners and health IT informaticists advised Drummond on the program's development to ensure its real-world applicability and timeliness, specifically as it pertains to getting pediatric EHR functionality into the hands of clinicians to improve child health outcomes.

¹ <https://www.healthit.gov/topic/health-it-pediatric-care-and-practice-settings>

² Applied Clinical Informatics 2021; 12(03): 708-709. doi:10.1055/s-0041-1732405

³ <https://ushik.ahrq.gov/mdr/portals/cehrf?system=cehrf> and
https://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/product_brief.cfm?product_id=593



For pediatric healthcare professionals

Users of pediatrics health IT technology are the direct beneficiaries of a pediatrics EHR certification program and are critical to its adoption.

While further governmental pressures beyond existing ONC actions may (or may not) increase, market pressure from healthcare professionals and other interested stakeholders, such as pediatrics professional associations (i.e., the American Academy of Pediatrics) and third-party research organizations focusing on patient safety in pediatrics (i.e., Pew Research), is vital for industry adoption of pediatric EHR certifications.

Drummond Pediatrics Health IT Certification Program

The following is key information as pediatric healthcare professionals engage with EHR vendors:

Drummond's program delivers comprehensive coverage of pediatric-focused EHR requirements without overburdening vendors.

The program adds vendor-neutral objectivity to the ONC's 10 recommendations and incorporates recommendations from the AHRQ Children EHR Format 2015 Priority List and HL7 Pediatric Care Functional Profile v2.1. However, the pediatric-specific functionality does not require an entirely new development cycle for vendors.

Most pediatrics EHR functionality can be supported as extensions to existing EHRs used for adult care and thus represent incremental investments. This is not to understate the investments that leading pediatrics EHR vendors have made in unique technology. Drummond's comprehensive program can better recognize leading vendors while helping to "raise all boats" across the EHR community for pediatric care.

Drummond's vendor-agnostic certification program provides a benchmark for pediatric EHR functionality.

This program adds objectivity and clarity to help EHR vendor and pediatrics professional communities. In addition,

- It reduces the guesswork for **EHR vendors** who can assess their product against a vendor-agnostic interpretation of the ONC's 10 pediatric recommendations along with a more comprehensive set of pediatrics-focused requirements.
- It also will reduce guesswork for the **practitioner community** and highlight differences among vendors. Drummond's program will not only certify, but also distinguish baseline versus advanced functionality allowing vendors to showcase product functionality in a format which makes purchasing decisions easier for pediatric practitioners.

Drummond's program is designed to accelerate advances in pediatric EHR functionality and usability.

The program is structured to start with a set of mandatory (baseline) requirements that any health IT application seeking certification must support. There are also optional scored "advanced badges" in areas such as newborn care and screening, weight-based dosing, well- child visits, and childhood immunizations to distinguish vendors for advanced functionality. By recognizing and distinguishing vendors who excel

and “move the needle forward” in specific areas, pediatric practitioners can make better purchasing decisions more closely linked to what matters to their practice and patients and impact their vendors’ roadmap in meaningful ways.

Summary

Drummond’s [Pediatric Health IT Certification Program](#) seeks to play its part in improving healthcare outcomes for children. Market pressure from practitioners, other stakeholders and competition among EHR vendors can raise the priority of voluntary certification in developer roadmaps. Drummond urges the pediatric practitioner community to learn more about the program and communicate the importance of certification to the EHR vendor community.

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