

Cerner Corporation Quality Reporting 2024 Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP) Updates

Introduction

As part of our efforts to maintain currency with the most contemporary industry standards for interoperability, Oracle Cerner will be releasing updates to eCQM reporting software for both Cerner Millennium® and Soarian Clinicals clients to support quality measurement standards for 2024 Centers' for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reporting. These updates will be certified with the US Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ASTP/ONC) through their Standards Version Advancement Process (SVAP).

To help provide background and address questions that may be raised, we compiled the following FAQs. If you have additional questions that are not addressed, please direct them to ocregulatorycompliance_us@oracle.com.

What is the SVAP?

The Standards Version Advancement Process, or SVAP, is a feature adopted by the ASTP/ONC in the Cures Act final rule for their Health IT Certification Program.

Since the ASTP/ONC's certification program provides the software requirements and associated standards and implementation specifications required to be used by healthcare providers for participation in CMS programs impacting reimbursement (e.g., Promoting Interoperability and MIPS), the regulations which cite specific standards (and corresponding versions of those standards) can inadvertently limit industry advancement and innovation or create potential compliance conundrums.

For example, the Cures Update cited the 2020 version of the CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA) Category I and Category III Implementation Guides for eCQM reporting as the required standard and version for the CQM reporting certification criterion. However, CMS updates their specifications on an annual basis and requires the current year's version for reporting under programs like Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) and MIPS Quality Performance Category. Thus, participants (and their certified technology suppliers) have a need to uplift to the new specification version each year. But doing so could have potential regulatory compliance implications for CEHRT since uplifting means you may no longer be supporting the specification version cited in regulation. This is the dilemma from which the SVAP was born.

The SVAP is the process through which new versions of adopted standards under the certification program related to interoperability (e.g., the CMS QRDA specifications) are reviewed annually and considered for approval for voluntary certification by certified developers, like Cerner Corporation.

This means that instead of having to wait for ASTP/ONC to adopt new versions of interoperability standards via regulation, developers (and their customers) are able to move forward with new versions of standards on a voluntary basis without any risk of regulatory compliance issues. The result is a more flexible regulatory environment which also lends itself to faster adoption of new interoperability-related innovations across the industry.

How does the SVAP work?

Each January, ASTP/ONC provides a list of new versions of current adopted interoperability standards and implementation specifications under the program which have been (or are soon to be) released or published during the current calendar year. These are the new versions of standards that are proposed for adoption under

the SVAP for that calendar year. ASTP/ONC then provides the industry with an opportunity to submit public comment on whether each proposed new version should be adopted and made available for voluntary certification.

The proposed standards are published at healthit.gov/svap with a tag identifying them as *new version under consideration*, and new versions of standards published after January can be dynamically inherited into the review process or recommended by stakeholders via comment.

Public commenting closes in May and ASTP/ONC reviews comments to come to a decision on which new versions to approve. In June, approved new versions of adopted standards for that year are announced and certified developers can begin voluntarily using those new versions in their certified modules after a 60-day delay period.

You can view the new approved versions for each calendar year on the [ONC Health IT Certification Program SVAP page](#). In the case of the CMS QRDA specifications, the new annual releases for reporting year 2024 have been approved and we fully expect that each new release will be approved for each corresponding calendar year moving forward.

What new quality reporting SVAP standards is Cerner Corporation advancing to for 2024?

For 2024, Cerner Corporation's certified HIT modules for quality reporting will be advancing to the following respective new versions of quality reporting standards via the SVAP:

- **Millennium (CQMs) (v2018 and v2024):**
 - [CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category I Hospital Quality Reporting; Implementation Guide for 2024 \(Updated August 2023\)](#)
 - [CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category III Eligible Clinicians Programs; Implementation Guide for 2024 \(Updated November 2023\)](#)
- **Soarian Clinicals (v2015):**
 - [CMS Implementation Guide for Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category I Hospital Quality Reporting; Implementation Guide for 2024 \(Updated August 2023\)](#)

How will these updates affect real world interoperability of Cerner's certified eCQM reporting capabilities?

The update to the 2024 version of these QRDA Category I and Category III standards is a necessary step to align with requirements for CMS eCQM reporting programs for 2024. Further, Cerner Corporation has always made such updates annually to maintain currency with CMS eCQM reporting programs like Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) for Medicare participating hospitals or the Quality Performance Category of CMS's Quality Payment Program (QPP) Merit based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

Therefore, we do not believe these updates will introduce any potential negative impacts to the real-world usability or interoperability of the certified quality reporting capabilities for *Millennium*® and Soarian Clinicals clients.

Will Cerner continue to support the 2023 versions of the QRDA standards that are currently certified for eCQM reporting?

Considering that this new version of the QRDA standards is now the only version accepted for 2024 CMS program reporting, previous versions of the standards will no longer be supported for CMS program reporting purposes. However, the previous year's version of the QRDA standards (2023 in this case) will continue to be supported for basic QRDA export and import capabilities.

Does this new process change how annual eCQM submission has been done historically?

In context of eCQM reporting and new versions of CMS QRDA specifications, the SVAP does not change anything for healthcare providers.

Uplifting to CMS' new annual specifications for each year's eCQM reporting is a well-established process that Cerner Corporation has always undertaken for clients participating in programs such as IQR for Medicare participating hospitals or the MIPS Quality Performance Category for eligible clinicians, and that will not change.

Both *Millennium*® and Soarian Clinicals clients will follow the established processes for uplifting to the new 2024 version of annual CMS QRDA specifications that are the focus of this notice (more details available under the final FAQ below). The only change is that ASTP/ONC has now adapted their program to better align with that annual uplift process by enabling developers to explicitly certify for each annual specification version, as opposed to doing so “under the covers” of the certification program with sub-regulatory blessing from ASTP/ONC.

Does this impact my EHR Certification ID created for CMS program attestations?

No. Once it is completed, the certification for the new 2024 version of the CMS QRDA specifications will be inherited under the existing certified product listings for the Millennium (CQMs) v2018 and v2024, and Soarian Clinicals v2015 certified health IT modules on the [Certified Health IT Product List \(CHPL\)](#). Accordingly, you should continue to follow normal procedures for obtaining an EHR Certification ID and developer verification letter (no new or special considerations to account for with the SVAP).

Cerner Millennium® clients are highly recommended to utilize the Regulatory Central EHR Certification ID Generator tool for producing Certification IDs and submitting verification letter requests. See [Generating an Electronic Health Record Certification ID](#) for more information and guidance.

Where can I find more information on Cerner Corporation's requirements and process for the new 2024 QRDA specification uplift?

Provided below are the minimum code requirements for the 2024 QRDA specification uplift, along with reference links for more details on the standard process. As mentioned above, the uplift process is consistent with past years for eCQMs (no changes for 2024).

Code requirements for Eligible Clinician *Millennium*® clients (for additional details on uplift process, see [Eligible Clinician eSubmission Overview](#)):

- #649056 Quality Reporting Document Architecture (QRDA): Import for ECs and EHs 2024 (July 2024)
- #646838 2024 Ambulatory Clinical Quality Measures Release (June 2024)

Code requirements for Eligible Hospital *Millennium*® clients (for additional details on uplift process, see [eCOM Hospital 2024 Version Update](#)):

- #641814 eMeasures Reporting (US): PC 2024 (May 2024)
- #641812 eMeasures Reporting (US): Stroke 2024 (May 2024)
- #641815 eMeasures Reporting (US): VTE 2024 (May 2024)
- #641811 eMeasures Reporting (US): Opioids 2024 (May 2024)
- #641816 eMeasures Reporting (US): Hospital Harm 2024 (May 2024)
- #641813 eMeasures Reporting (US): STEMI-ED 2024 (May 2024)
- #641818 eMeasures Reporting (US): Hybrid 2024 (May 2024)
- #641817 eMeasures Reporting (US): GMCS 2024 (May 2024)
- #641818 eMeasures Reporting (US): Hybrid 2024 (May 2024)

Code requirements for Soarian Clinicals clients (please reference [2024 Program Requirements and Solution Support Summary](#) for additional details on uplift process):

- Healthcare Intelligence 8.05 SP4 & 8.04 SP7 (June 2024)