HHS Finalizes Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability Rules



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As part of the final rule published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in August 2025 regarding changes to the Medicare Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System for Fiscal Year 2026, HHS finalized rules for Medicare certified electronic health records systems. According to HHS, the final rule complements policies advanced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in recent years and expands interoperability for patients, health care providers, and payers to ease administrative burdens.

The final rule includes provisions that accelerate electronic prior authorizations by enabling providers to electronically submit prior authorizations using certified platforms, resulting in faster care authorization decisions and more transparency for patients and providers. In addition, the final rule will improve drug cost transparency by enabling prescribers to compare drug prices during care encounters in real time and identify lower cost alternatives available under a patient's insurance coverage, particularly patients with prescription benefits under Medicare Part D.

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