

The Cures Act Final Rule implementation timeline is gradual. It started in June 2020 and has a plan completion date of December 2023. The gradual progression allows for app developers and health IT developers to create accessible electronic health information for patients with testing at each step to ensure security for the patients and medical providers.

The Cures Act dictates that eight categories of clinical notes created in an electronic health record (EHR) must be immediately available to patients through a secure online portal. Individual or organization health care providers may not block or delay patients' access to any eligible information entered and stored in their EHR.

- a. Consultation notes
- b. Discharge summary notes
- c. History and physical
- d. Imaging narratives
- e. Lab report narratives
- f. Pathology report narratives
- g. Procedure notes
- h. Progress notes
- i. Exempt: Notes compiled in reasonable anticipation for use in a civil, criminal or administrative action or procedure
- ii. Psychological session notes, however regarding diagnosis, medications and appointment times may not be blocked

What ATs Should Know About the **Cures Act**

Although not directly named in the **Cures Act Final Rule** document, athletic trainers
employed through institution health services, a
hospital, local health care clinic or a
physician's group practice should be aware of
the **Cures Act** and how it may affect their EHR
system. Athletic trainers in those employment
situations should contact the health IT
department, risk management office and/or
general council office to ensure the EHR
system complies with the **Cures Act Final Rule.**

When considering an EHR system, athletic trainers should be aware of application programming interface (API) and the HL7 Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) standard. The API and FHIR work together to allow patients authorized access to their electronic health information (EHI). Any software used for EHI would need to be API certified to support FHIR current standard.

Links:

The ONC Cures Act Final Rule (PDF)
Health Care Provider Definition (PDF)
Standards-based Application Programming Interface (API) Certification Criterion (PDF)
United States Core Data for Interoperability (PDF)