



2026 UNIFIED AGENDA

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the [2026 Unified Agenda](#) of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions (Unified Agenda). The Unified Agenda identifies the regulatory actions under development by the various Departments. The dates provided are not binding but serve as a guide for when the action items may be expected.

The following table is a list of items in the 2026 Unified Agenda for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) related to administrative simplification, privacy, interoperability, and price transparency. The HHS agencies included are the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

Agency	Status	Regulation	Tentative Date
CMS	Proposed Rule	Requirements Related to Advanced Explanation of Benefits and Other Provisions Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (CMS-9900) This proposed rule would implement section 9816 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, section 716 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and section 2799A1 of the Public Health Service, as directed by section 111 of the No Surprises Act; and may include other provisions under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.	September 2026
CMS	Proposed Rule	Administrative Simplification: Modifications to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Electronic Transaction Standards (CMS-0061) This proposed rule seeks to adopt the updated versions of the standards for the electronic exchange of health information under the Administrative Simplification subtitle of HIPAA. Specifically, this rule would propose to replace the X12 Technical Reports Type 3, Version 5010 with an updated version for health care claims or equivalent encounter information transactions (Institutional, Professional, and Dental) and electronic remittance advice transactions. These updated versions of the X12 standards would promote interoperability and ease the administrative burden on providers and health plans.	December 2026

Agency	Status	Regulation	Tentative Date
CMS	Final Rule	Transparency in Coverage (CMS-9882) This rule amends the Transparency in Coverage final rule published November 12, 2020, (85 FR 72158) to improve the quality, accessibility, usability, and transparency of healthcare price data.	July 2026
OCR	Proposed Rule	HIPAA Privacy Rule to Promote Individuals' Timely Access to their Protected Health Information HHS plans to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking to solicit comment on proposals to modify the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (Privacy Rule) under the HIPAA and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009. The proposals would address the amount of time that covered entities have to respond to requests for protected health information made pursuant to the right of access.	November 2026
OCR	Final Rule	HIPAA Privacy Rule: Changes to Support Coordinated Care and Individual Engagement and Reduce Regulatory Burdens This rule will address proposals to modify the HIPAA Privacy Rule to strengthen individuals' rights to access their own protected health information, including electronic information; improve information sharing for care coordination and case management for individuals; facilitate greater family and caregiver involvement in the care of individuals experiencing emergencies or health crises; enhance flexibilities for disclosures in emergency or threatening circumstances; support the use of telecommunications relay services by individuals and workforce members of HIPAA covered entities and business associates who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or who have a speech disability; expand the Privacy Rule permission to use and disclose protected health information of Armed Forces personnel for national readiness purposes so that it applies to all uniformed services personnel; and reduce administrative burdens on HIPAA covered health care providers and health plans, while continuing to protect individuals' health information privacy interests.	August 2026
ONC	Proposed Rule	Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Application Programming Interfaces and Information Blocking The proposed rule would seek to advance interoperability through proposals for standards adoption; the certification of health IT to support expanded uses of application programming interfaces; and enhancements to the conditions of certification. Additionally, the rule would update the information blocking regulations to support information sharing and improved patient health outcomes.	November 2026
ONC	Final Rule	Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: ASTP/ONC Deregulatory Actions to Unleash Prosperity (HTI-5) The rulemaking would focus deregulatory actions identified in 45 CFR part 170 (Health Information Technology Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria and Certification Programs for Health IT) and 171 (Information Blocking). This proposed rule seeks to reduce burden, offer flexibility to both developers and providers, and support innovation through the removal and revisions of certain certification criteria and regulatory provisions.	August 2026

The following two items were included in the Spring 2025 Unified Agenda but are not included in this current release:

- [Administrative Simplification: Modifications of Operating Rules for Eligibility for a Health Plan, Health Care Claim Status and Health Care EFT and ERA Transactions \(CMS-0060\)](#) Final Rule
This interim final rule modifies four existing operating rules that are currently adopted for three Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) transactions: Eligibility for a Health Plan, Health Care Claim Status, Health Care Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) and Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) transactions. We are developing this rule, in part, based on a June 2023 recommendation letter from the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS). Industry stakeholders informed the contents of the recommendation letter, and based on its assessment of input, the NCVHS recommends that the agency adopt updates to the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare's (CAQH) Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE) operating rules to support X12 transaction standards.
- [HIPAA Security Rule to Strengthen the Cybersecurity of Electronic Protected Health Information](#) Final Rule
This rule will modify the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information (the Security Rule) under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009 (HITECH Act). These modifications will improve cybersecurity in the health care sector by strengthening requirements for HIPAA regulated entities to safeguard electronic protected health information to prevent, detect, contain, mitigate, and recover from cybersecurity threats.