



FACT SHEET

HEALTH EQUITY DATA AND HEALTH DATA EXCHANGE

This fact sheet outlines health equity and other sensitive patient data included in each version of the [United States Core Data for Interoperability](#) (USCDI), a baseline data set meant to set the floor for data exchange efforts in the United States. USCDI is an official government standard and is used to set requirements in various regulations related to health data and health data exchange.

Data Element	USCDI	Data Element	USCDI
Race	V1+	Tribal Affiliation	V3+
Ethnicity	V1+	Disability Status	V3+
Preferred Language	V1+	Mental/Cognitive Status	V3+
Smoking Status	V1+	Pregnancy Status	V3+
Sexual Orientation	V2+	Alcohol Use	V4+
Gender Identity	V2+	Substance Use	V4+
SDOH Assessments	V2+	Name to Use	V5+
SDOH Goals	V2+	Pronouns	V5+
SDOH Problems/Concerns	V2+	Interpreter Needed	V5+
SDOH Interventions	V2+	Sex Parameter for Clinical Use	V5+

Rules for Exchanging USCDI Data

Until January 1, 2026, the baseline version of USCDI expected in health IT certification programs and health data exchanges is USCDI v1. This includes the CMS mandated Patient Access API.

As of January 1, 2026, USCDI v3 becomes the baseline version and Patient Access APIs must use it. Provider Access and Payer-to-Payer API support using USCDI v3 is required as of January 1, 2027. If the payer has any USCDI data in their possession they must include it in these APIs by those dates. Patients must opt into the Patient Access and Payer-to-Payer APIs but must opt out of the Provider Access API if they do not want their data included. These are global options; patients cannot opt out at a more granular level such as permitting the exchange of only less sensitive USCDI data.

Information blocking actors are also required to include USCDI data (and more) when responding to requests for patient information unless an exception applies. Patients may request that certain data not be exchanged by providers, but providers have no obligation to agree if they make those decisions in non-discriminatory ways. If they do agree, the data qualifies for an exception and may be withheld.

Under these rules, patients should expect sensitive data included in USCDI will be exchanged among some healthcare organizations without explicit consent sought or required as of the dates above.