

Test Procedure for §170.314(d)(5) Automatic log-off

This document describes the test procedure for evaluating conformance of complete EHRs or EHR modules to the certification criteria defined in 45 CFR Part 170 Subpart C of the Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, Final Rule. The document¹ is organized by test procedure and derived test requirements with traceability to the normative certification criteria as described in the Overview document located at [available when final]. The test procedures may be updated to reflect on-going feedback received during the certification activities.

The HHS/Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has defined the standards, implementation guides and certification criteria used in this test procedure. Applicability and interpretation of the standards, implementation guides and certification criteria to EHR technology is determined by ONC. Testing of EHR technology in the Permanent Certification Program, henceforth referred to as the ONC HIT Certification Program², is carried out by National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program-Accredited Testing Laboratories (ATLs) as set forth in the final rule establishing the Permanent Certification Program (*Establishment of the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, 45 CFR Part 170; February 7, 2011.*)

Questions or concerns regarding the ONC HIT Certification Program should be directed to ONC at ONC.Certification@hhs.gov.

CERTIFICATION CRITERION

This Certification Criterion is from the Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, Final Rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on September 4, 2012. This Certification Criterion is included in the definition of a Base EHR.

§170.314(d)(5) Automatic log-off. Prevent a user from gaining further access to an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity.

Per Section III.A of the preamble of the Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, Final Rule, the 2014 Edition of this Certification Criterion is classified as unchanged with refinements from the 2011 Edition. This Certification Criterion meets the three factors of unchanged certification criteria: (1) the certification

¹ Disclaimer: Certain commercial products may be identified in this document. Such identification does not imply recommendation or endorsement by ONC.

² Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, Final Rule

criterion includes only the same capabilities that were specified in previously adopted certification criteria, (2) the certification criterion's capabilities apply to the same setting as they did in previously adopted certification criteria, and (3) the certification criterion remains designated as "mandatory," or it is re-designated as "optional," for the same setting for which it was previously adopted certification criterion. Accordingly, Section III.D of the preamble of the Health Information Technology: Initial Set of Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, Final Rule published in the Federal Register on July 28, 2010 also applies to the 2014 Edition of this Certification Criterion, but is not referenced in this test procedure.

Per Section III.A of the preamble of the Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, Final Rule where the automatic log-off certification criterion is discussed:

- "...terminating a session should not be confused with locking a session, where access to an active session is permitted after re-authentication."
- "...EHR technology developers should interpret this certification criterion to require... that after a period of inactivity the EHR technology must make a user's session inaccessible and subsequently require the user to re-authenticate using the same credentials used to begin the session."
- "Additionally, we clarify that this certification criterion is not meant to result in the termination of network connections, especially network connections that are not in use by the EHR technology, but by other applications."

CHANGES FROM 2011 TO 2014 EDITION

Per Section III.A of the preamble of the Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology, Final Rule where the automatic log-off certification criterion is discussed:

- "To make the capability expressed by this certification criterion clearer to EHR technology developers, we have replaced "Terminate" with "Prevent a user from gaining further access to..." Although this may be longer phrasing toward the same meaning, we believe it less ambiguous than "terminate," is more plain language, and that it is also consistent with the language used for the "session lock" security control specified in NIST 800-53 rev3."

INFORMATIVE TEST DESCRIPTION

This section provides an informative description of how the test procedure is organized and conducted. It is not intended to provide normative statements of the certification requirements.

This test evaluates the capability for a Complete EHR or EHR Module to prevent a user from gaining further access to an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity.

The Vendor supplies the test data for this test procedure.

This test procedure consists of one section:

- Prevent a user from gaining further access to an electronic session – evaluates the capability to prevent a user from gaining further access to an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity
 - The Tester establishes an electronic session
 - The Tester verifies that a user is prevented from gaining further access to an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity

REFERENCED STANDARDS

None

NORMATIVE TEST PROCEDURES

Derived Test Requirements

DTR170.314.d.5 – 1: Prevent a user from gaining further access to an electronic session

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Required Vendor Information

VE170.314.d.5 – 1.01: The Vendor shall identify the EHR function(s) that are available to prevent a user from gaining further access to an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity

VE170.314.d.5 – 1.02: The Vendor shall provide all test data necessary to perform the test procedure, including a valid log-in account that can be used to establish an electronic session

Required Test Procedure:

TE170.314.d.5 – 1.01: Using the Vendor-identified EHR function(s) and test data, the Tester shall establish an electronic session

TE170.314.d.5 – 1.02: Using the Inspection Test Guide (below), the Tester shall verify that a user is prevented from gaining further access to an electronic session after the predetermined time of inactivity

Inspection Test Guide

IN170.314.d.5 – 1.01: Tester shall verify that a user is prevented from gaining further access to an electronic session after a predetermined time of inactivity

CONFORMANCE TEST TOOLS

None

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Document History

Version Number	Description of Change	Date
1.0	Released for public comment	September 7, 2012

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