



TO: Steve Posnack, Executive Director, OTECH
FROM: John Snyder, Senior Advisor, Certification and Testing Division
THROUGH: Alicia Morton, Director Certification and Testing Division, OTECH
DATE: January 7, 2019
SUBJECT: Healthit.gov Update for ONC Program Partners – **DECISION**
CC: Leadership: Office of Technology, Public Affairs and Communications

TOPIC

On November 29, 2018 ONC announced and presented the ONC Program Partner branding package to the public. With guidance and approval from the Office of the General Counsel, three specialized logos can now be proudly displayed by ONC-Authorized Testing Laboratories, ONC-Authorized Certification Bodies, and ONC Approved Testing Partners, respectively. The next step is to align the web content displayed in the Healthit.gov topic "Certification of Health IT", "Testing Process & Test Methods" with the Program Partner branding. **This proposal replaces use of the term "Alternative" and supplants it with "Approved."**

BACKGROUND

The ONC Program Partner branding package promotes ONC's *five-year Goal to Transition the ONC Health IT Certification Program's Testing Portfolio to industry, Standards Development Organizations, and other non-profit partners*¹. The addition of official logos for ONC Approved Testing Partners, ONC-ATL's, and ONC-ACB's provides additional Program participation incentives. As that participation increases, there will be an expanding number of Approved Testing Partners with a respective decrease in the federal offerings. This enhances the diversity of the testing portfolio, in line with ONC's five-year transition vision.

The term "Alternative Test Method" made sense before ONC fully committed to the transition of the testing portfolio. However, as the vision has matured and transformed into a model where there are not only "alternative" test methods; ONC is also supportive of third-party entities (for example, NCPDP) that are *the only test method providers*. For the 2015 Edition (b)(3) Electronic prescribing criterion, no ONC or NIST testing methods exist; no "Alternative" testing methods--instead, one testing method provided by our ONC Approved Testing Partner: NCPDP. While NCPDP is the solitary non-governmental testing method at present, this situation will certainly become commonplace. Moreover, the term "Alternative" is not ingratiating to the nascent business models in the commercial sector. Becoming an "ONC Approved Testing Partner" is much more attractive than becoming an "Alternative."

¹ <https://www.healthit.gov/buzz-blog/healthit-certification/5-year-goal-transition-onc-health-certification-programs-testing-portfolio/>

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is to approve for immediate implementation the changes to the Healthit.gov web pages as fully described in the accompanying PowerPoint.



Program-Partner-W
eb-Update.pptx

On the Program Partners page all of the references to "alternative" testing methods will be changed to "ONC Approved Testing Partner"². All of the workflows depicted (derived from Visio diagrams) will be changed respectively. Text such as "*Entities interested in submitting an alternative test method for ONC's consideration*" will become "*Entities interested in submitting a test method for ONC's consideration...*" and so on. **Most references to the term "alternative" will be removed or replaced.** There are a few listings and occurrences where the term alternative makes sense and will remain--for example in the listings where there are more than one choice of tool.

DECISION

Approved _____ Not Approved _____ Need More Information _____

Steve Posnack,
Executive Director, OTECH

January 14, 2019

² <https://www.healthit.gov/topic/certification-ehrs/onc-approved-alternative-test-method>