Two New APIs: Patient Access API & Provider Directory API
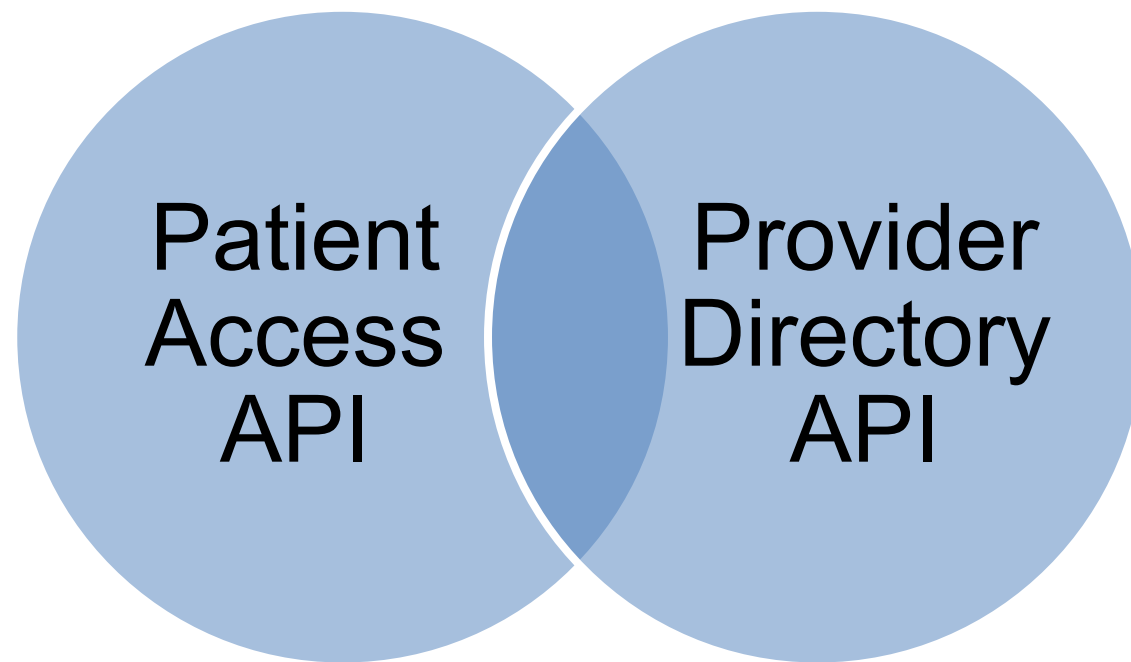
NAACOS Fall 2020

Data Exchange with APIs (Application Programming Interface)

The **ONC & CMS Rules** work together to enable the mandate of the **Cures Act** to drive the electronic access, exchange, and use of electronic health information by and between **patients, healthcare providers, & health plans**.

Analogy

Two New APIs

Maintenance, Documentation, And Security

Payers Must…

Must ensure that APIs function properly

Must comply with the separate ONC rule

Must make each API publicly accessible on their website

Must allow third-party apps to access their APIs

Can request that third-party apps attest to having privacy and security provisions in their privacy policy

How Will This Impact Patients, Providers, Payers, and Vendors?

"Patients should have control of their records, period. These rules are the start of a new chapter in how patients experience American healthcare, opening up countless new opportunities for them to improve their own health, find the providers that meet their needs, and drive quality through greater coordination."

-HHS Secretary Alex M. Azar

Tommy Thompson: HHS' new health IT rule would hurt Epic and Wisconsin's economy

Recommendations to help ONC avoid privacy risks for family members and for patients:

By requiring health systems to send patient data to any app requested by the patient, the ONC rule inadvertently creates new privacy risks. According to a recent study, 79% of health care apps resell or share data[i], and there is no regulation requiring patient approval of this downstream use. There are two highly likely patient privacy risks.

- **Family member data may inadvertently be shared.** The data sent to the apps might include family member data, without the patient realizing it and without the family members' knowledge or permission. Almost all medical records contain family history, which may be threaded throughout the record.

After surgery, Jim's doctor wants to prescribe an opioid for Jim during his recovery. Jim prefers not to take an opioid because his brother Ken struggles with addiction. The doctor makes a note about that in Jim's medical record. When Jim's health data is sent to an app, and that data is used, shared, or sold, Ken's addiction status may become