



Certification Commission
for Healthcare
Information Technology

The Complex Infrastructure of Government Efforts to Support the Dispersion of Health Information Technology: The Role of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology (CCHIT)

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History and Status

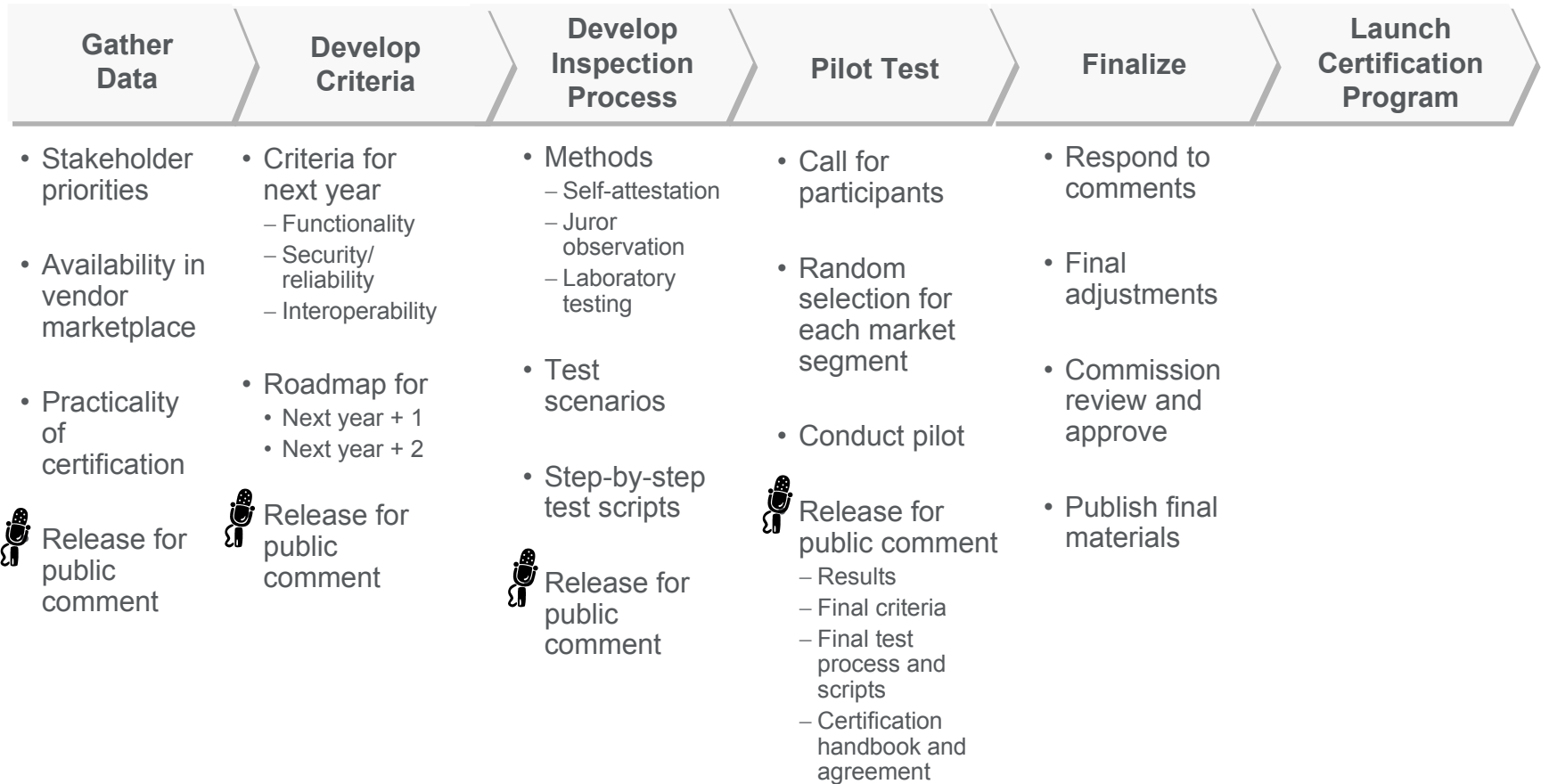
- **Sept 2004:** AHIMA, HIMSS, and the Alliance partner to launch CCHIT
- **June 2005:** Eight organizations add \$325k funding support
- **Sept 2005:** CCHIT awarded 3-year, \$7.5M HHS contract to develop compliance criteria and inspection process
 - Ambulatory EHRs (2006)
 - Inpatient EHRs (2007)
 - Infrastructure and Networks through which EHRs interoperate (2008)
- **July 18, 2006:** First batch of certified ambulatory EHRs announced

Goals of Product Certification

- Reduce the risks of investing in HIT
- Facilitate interoperability of HIT products
- Enhance availability of adoption incentives
- Ensure that the privacy of personal health information is protected



Development Process





Myths and Realities

Myth	Reality
CCHIT is a government agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCHIT is an independent, voluntary, private-sector initiative organized as a limited liability corporation. CCHIT will transition from HHS funding to a self-sustaining model.
CCHIT is a standards development organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCHIT develops criteria based on commonly available standards developed by SDOs.
Certification could stunt innovation and competition in the HIT marketplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certification is a pass/fail indication that the product meets <u>basic criteria</u> in every area. It provides a baseline above which HIT vendors may innovate and compete.
CCHIT will only be certifying EHRs for the physician practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work groups are already developing criteria for inpatient EHR certification.• In 2007, the effort will expand to the networks and technology components through which EHRs interoperate.