

§170.315(d)(5) Automatic access time-out

2015 Edition CCGs

Version 1.0 Updated on 10-22-2015

Revision History

Version #	Description of Change	Version Date
1.0	Initial Publication	10-22-2015

Regulation Text

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§170.315 (d)(5) *Automatic access time-out*—

- (i) Automatically stop user access to health information after a predetermined period of inactivity.
- (ii) Require user authentication in order to resume or regain the access that was stopped.

Standard(s) Referenced

None

Certification Companion Guide: Automatic access time-out

This Certification Companion Guide (CCG) is an informative document designed to assist with health IT product development. The CCG is not a substitute for the 2015 Edition final regulation. It extracts key portions of the rule's preamble and includes subsequent clarifying interpretations. To access the full context of regulatory intent please consult the 2015 Edition final rule or other included regulatory reference. The CCG is for public use and should not be sold or redistributed.

[Link to Final Rule Preamble](#)

Edition Comparison	Gap Certification Eligible	Base EHR Definition	In Scope for CEHRT Definition
Unchanged	Yes	Not Included	No

Certification Requirements

Quality management system (§ 170.315(g)(4)) and accessibility-centered design (§ 170.315(g)(5)) must be certified as part of the overall scope of the certificate issued to the product.

- When a single quality management system (QMS) is used, the QMS only needs to be identified once. Otherwise, the QMS' need to be identified for every capability to which it was applied.
- When a single accessibility-centered design standard is used, the standard only needs to be identified once. Otherwise, the accessibility-centered design standards need to be identified for every capability to which they were applied; or, alternatively the developer must state that no accessibility-centered design was used.

Table for Design and Performance

- [Quality management system \(§ 170.315\(g\)\(4\)\)](#)
- [Accessibility-centered design \(§ 170.315\(g\)\(5\)\)](#)

Technical Explanations and Clarifications

Applies to entire criterion

Clarifications:

- There is no standard required for this criterion.
- This criterion has been renamed compared to the 2014 Edition “automatic log-off” criterion at § 170.314(d)(5). This name change does not change gap certification eligibility but is meant to more clearly convey that systems may be stateless, clientless, and/or run on any device rather than session-based. The change to “automatic access time-out” is intended to allow system architecture flexibility. [see also [80 FR 62656](#)]
- To meet the requirements of this criterion, health IT must terminate a user’s access and subsequently require the user to re-authenticate using the same credentials used to originally gain access. [see also [77 FR 54250](#)]
- This criterion is not meant to result in termination of network connections when user access is stopped after a period of inactivity, especially other network connections that are not in use by the health IT product. [see also [77 FR 54250](#)]

Paragraph (d)(5)(i)

Technical outcome – The health IT Module must automatically stop a user’s access to health information after inactivity for a predetermined period.

Clarifications:

- No additional clarifications available.

Paragraph (d)(5)(ii)

Technical outcome – A user will need to re-enter their credentials in order to resume or regain access to the health IT module after access was stopped.

Clarifications:

- No additional clarifications available.

Content last reviewed on September 21, 2018