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February 27, 2026

Thomas Keane, MD, MBA

Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology
Department of Health and Human Services

Mary E. Switzer Building

330 C Street, S.W.

Washington, DC 20201

Submitted electronically via www.regulations.gov

**RE: Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: ASTP/ONC Deregulatory
Actions to Unleash Prosperity**

Dear Assistant Secretary Keane:

Established in 1943, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) is a professional organization with more than 6,700 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries. This membership includes allergist/immunologists (A/I), other medical specialists, allied health and related healthcare professionals with a special interest in the research and treatment of patients with allergic and immunologic diseases. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on ASTP/ONC's deregulatory actions outlined in the aforementioned proposed rule.

**Public Health Certification Criteria: Transmission to Public Health
Agencies—Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Reporting**

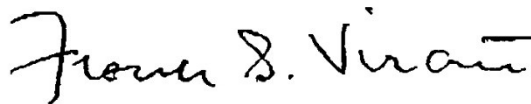
ASTP/ONC proposes to revise the "transmission to public health agencies—antimicrobial use and resistance reporting" certification criterion in § 170.315(f)(6) by removing the requirement to maintain conformance with the Clinical Document Architecture (CDA)-based implementation guide referenced in § 170.205(r)(1), a change intended to reduce administrative burden on health IT developers as the industry and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) transition toward Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)-based reporting approaches. AAAAAI generally supports this proposal but urges ASTP/ONC to ensure that revising this criterion does not compromise antimicrobial use and resistance reporting, which is essential to effective public health surveillance and the timely identification of emerging infectious threats, through ongoing monitoring and clear implementation guardrails that preserve data integrity, completeness, and interoperability during the transition.

Additionally, and in the context of health IT modernization, AAAAI recently [responded](#) to a Request for Information (RFI) on the Health Technology Ecosystem (CMS-0042-NC), urging ASTP/ONC and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to address a longstanding public health issue: the inaccurate and persistent labeling of penicillin allergy in the electronic health record (EHR). The call to action aligned with AAAAI's [2024 Position Statement Changing Electronic Health Record Allergy Documentation to "Alerts" to Lead to Easily Understood, Actionable Labels](#), recommending a transition from static allergy "labels" to more dynamic, clinically actionable allergy documentation that supports reassessment and delabeling when appropriate. It also reflected AAAAI's [2023 Position Statement on Penicillin Allergy](#), underscoring that penicillin allergy mislabeling is widespread and clinically consequential – while approximately 10 percent of the U.S. population reports a penicillin allergy, more than 90 percent of these individuals are not truly allergic.

Although ASTP/ONC is not broadly soliciting comments on antimicrobial use and resistance reporting in this rulemaking, AAAAI raises this issue because existing FHIR-based data structures (i.e., [US Core AllergyIntolerance Profile](#)) may already support the structured capture and exchange of allergy status information across EHR systems, yet current certification expectations do not ensure that this information is used in clinically meaningful ways to address the aforementioned challenge. Accordingly, **AAAAI urges ASTP/ONC to explicitly consider penicillin allergy delabeling as an important functional requirement of existing health IT certification capabilities as it modernizes certification criterion.** Further, as ASTP/ONC removes references to outdated CDA-based standards, such removal should be accompanied by the adoption of FHIR-based standards to ensure that certified EHR systems adhere to a uniform framework that supports interoperability and clinical usability across required functional areas.

We appreciate your consideration of these important issues as ASTP/ONC finalizes its latest health data, technology and interoperability regulation. Should you have any questions, please contact Sheila Heitzig, Director of Practice and Policy, at sheitzig@aaaai.org or (414) 272-6071.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Virant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank S. Virant, MD, FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology