

HIMSS 2026 Readiness Guide





March 9–12, 2026 | Las Vegas, NV

The "Digital Front Door" Mission

As we move toward the **May 11, 2026** compliance deadline, your priority at HIMSS should be evaluating how self-service tech bridges the gap between patient experience and federal mandates.





Checklist 1: The HHS Section 504 Audit

Before May 2026, ensure every "Digital Front Door" meets these criteria:

- **Software Accessibility:** Does the kiosk interface conform to **WCAG 2.1 Level AA**? 
- **Hardware Fallback:** If a patient cannot use the kiosk, is there a clear, private, and independent "alternative procedure"? 
- **Contractual Review:** Have you updated vendor contracts to mandate accessibility compliance? 
- **Manual Testing:** Have you moved beyond "automated scans" to test with screen readers and keyboard-only navigation? 




Checklist 2: The "Security-First" Identity Audit

When visiting biometric and intake vendors, ask these four questions:

- **Biometric Encryption:** Are you storing raw images or encrypted mathematical templates? (Look for **Privacy by Design**). 
- **EHR Write-Back:** Can the kiosk "write" status updates (e.g., "Patient Arrived") back to Epic/Cerner in real-time? 
- **Persistent Queuing:** Does the kiosk store data locally and "retry" if the hospital network dips? 
- **1:N Matching:** Does the system perform a "one-to-many" search to actively prevent duplicate medical records? 

Checklist 3: The Surgical & Exterior Infrastructure

Evaluation for specialized environments:

- **IP Ratings:** Are your clinical screens rated **IP65/IP69K** for high-pressure chemical washdowns? 
- **Glove Compatibility:** Does the PCAP touch function flawlessly with 5mm surgical gloves? 
- **EV Charging Integration:** Can your parking lot chargers double as digital wayfinding or branding hubs? 
- **Outdoor Readability:** Are your exterior kiosks rated at **3000+ nits** for direct sunlight? 