

U.S. Trusted Exchange Framework & Common Agreement

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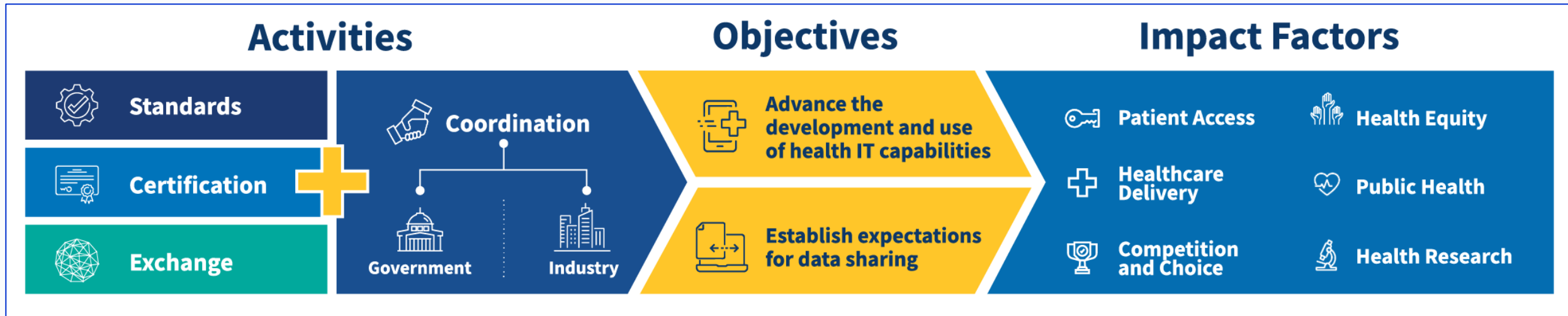
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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ASTP Digital Health Activities



ASTP Digital Health Activities

About

- ASTP is part of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- ASTP supports the entire health system with the use of health IT and the promotion of nationwide, standards-based health information exchange.

VISION: Better health enabled by data

MISSION: To create systemic improvements in health and care through the access, exchange, and use of data



Priorities



Build the digital foundation

- Data standards
- Health IT gaps
- HHS Health IT Alignment Policy



Make interoperability easy

- Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement
- Application programming interfaces (e.g., FHIR)
- Expand education and outreach
- Information blocking rules



Ensure proper use of digital information and tools

- Health equity by design (data capture and use)
- Transparency in areas such as algorithm use and safety

21st Century Cures Act – Section 4003(b)

*“[T]he National Coordinator shall convene appropriate public and private stakeholders to **develop or support a trusted exchange framework** for trust policies and practices and for a **common agreement** for exchange between health information networks.”*

[emphasis added]



TEFCA Will Simplify Health Data Exchange

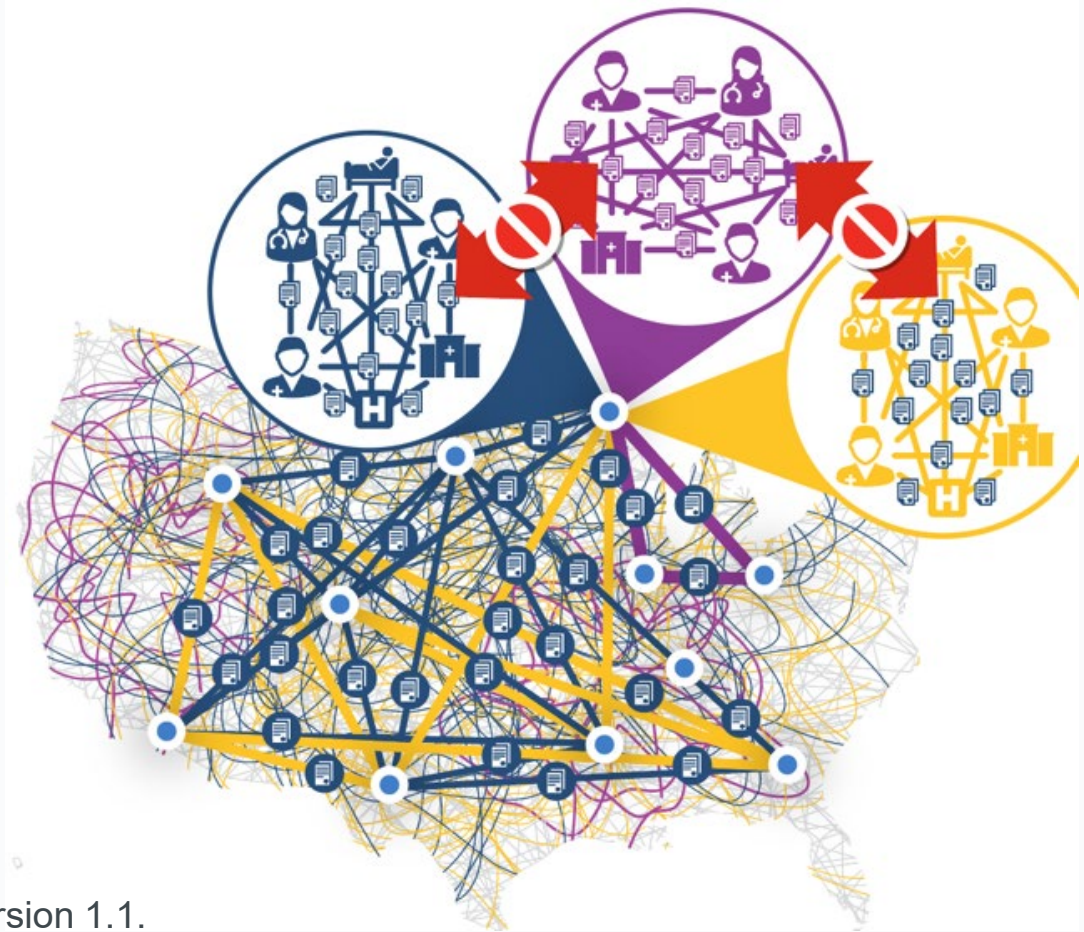
Proliferation of Agreements

While there has been growth in national networks, many organizations must join multiple Health Information Networks (HINs)*, and many HINs do not share data with each other.

The COVID pandemic also underscored the need to share information for care and public health purposes.

Health data exchange must be simplified in order to scale.

*Capitalized terms have the definitions set forth in the Common Agreement Version 1.1.



TEFCA Goals



GOAL 1

Establish a universal policy and technical floor for nationwide interoperability



GOAL 2

Simplify connectivity for organizations to securely exchange information to improve patient care, enhance the welfare of populations, and generate health care value



GOAL 3

Enable individuals to gather their health care information

Benefits of TEFCA

Relevant, trusted information from nationwide sources for:



Individuals

Use an app to access their own records from TEFCA-connected sources located across the nation.



Providers and Health Systems

Improve care, coordination and population health by obtaining a more informed picture of care across settings through fewer connection points.



Public Health

Improve quality, reduce costs, and expand public health interoperability.



Payers

Get and share data needed for care management, value-based care, payer-to-payer exchange, etc.



Health Information Networks

Enhance the value of network participation and lower the cost of connecting with other networks.



Technology Developers

Provide a scalable policy and technical ecosystem for innovation.



Researchers (Future)

Improve quality, reduce costs, and expand participation in clinical research.

For more detail on the benefits of TEFCA for stakeholders, see factsheets at: <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/tefca-and-rce-resources/>

Exchange Purposes (XPs)

- The Exchange Purposes are the reasons for which information can be shared through TEFCA Exchange
- Six Exchange Purposes are authorized under the Common Agreement
- The Exchange Purpose SOP (XP SOP) defines the authorized Exchange Purpose, identifies which require a response, who must respond, and exceptions for required response

Permitted Exchange Purposes



Treatment



Payment



Health Care Operations



Public Health



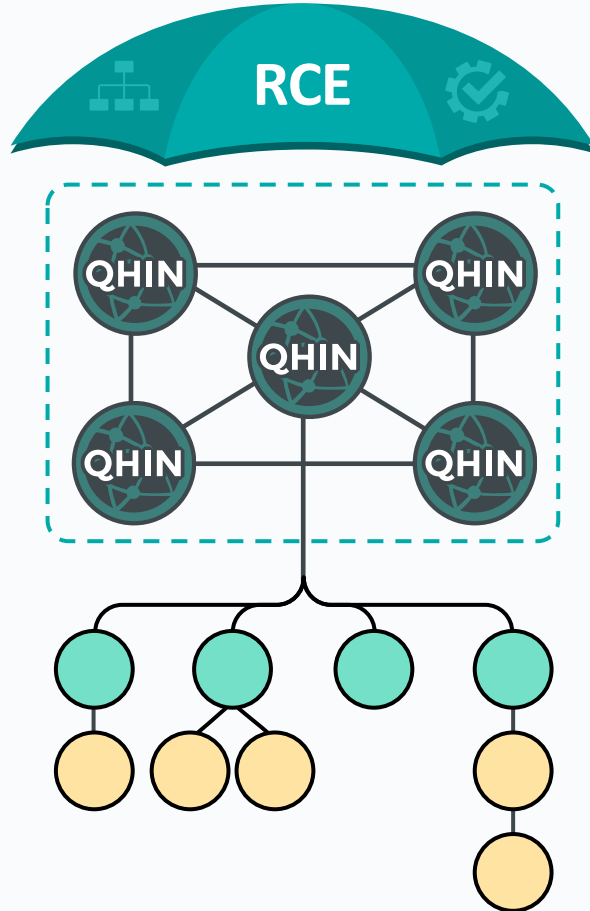
Government Benefits Determination



Individual Access Services

Additional Exchange Purposes may be added over time

Exchange Under TEFCA



ASTP defines overall policy and certain governance requirements

RCE provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs

QHINs connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability

Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants

Participants and Subparticipants connect to each other through TEFCA Exchange

- Participants contract directly with a QHIN and may choose to also provide connectivity to others (Subparticipants), creating an expanded network of networks
- Participants and Subparticipants agree to the same Terms of Participation and can generally participate in TEFCA Exchange in the same manner

TEFCA Components



**Framework
Agreements**



**Standard
Operating
Procedures**



**Technical
Requirements**



**RCE
Directory**



**Oversight &
Compliance**



Governance

TEFCA Establishes Policy and Technical Requirements for Sharing Electronic Health Information

The [Common Agreement](#), including the [Terms of Participation](#), establishes clear policy and technical requirements for the exchange of information by organizations participating in TEFCA.

This means that TEFCA QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants know what business practices are expected of their organization and what to expect from all the other participating organizations.

The TEFCA framework, including the QHIN Technical Framework, provides:

- A shared governance structure for all QHINs
- A structured onboarding process to ensure QHINs can adhere to the Common Agreement requirements
- Common protocols for authenticating and authorizing users
- A shared directory service to support exchange of electronic health information
- Provisions on how QHINs respond to all data requests as may be required under the Common Agreement
- Provisions on compliance with relevant privacy and security rules
- A security incident notification process

Learning More...

RCE Resources: <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/tefca-and-rce-resources/>

- Common Agreement
- QHIN Technical Framework
- FHIR® Roadmap for TEFCA
- Standard Operating Procedures
- QHIN Application
- Communication Protocols
- User's Guide
- Benefits of TEFCA by Stakeholder Factsheets
- FAQs

Additional Resources: <https://www.healthit.gov/tefca>

Event Registration and Recordings: <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/community-engagement/>

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 Feedback Form: <https://www.healthit.gov/form/healthit-feedback-form>

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