



# TEFCA Public Health Use Cases: eCR

October 16, 2024

# Agenda



- 1 Introduction to eCR
- 2 Project Objectives
- 3 Strategic Alignment
- 4 Project Outcomes and Highlights
- 5 Outlook and Next Steps

# What is Electronic Case Reporting (eCR)?

The *automated generation* and transmission of case reports from the electronic health record (EHR) to public health agencies for review and action

# Healthcare Providers

# eCR Infrastructure

TRIGGERING SETUP

**Provider EHR Product**  
utilizing the eCR Now FHIR App

**Provider EHR Product**  
with a vendor-developed eCR solution

**eCR Now FHIR App**

eICR  
RR

eICR  
RR

**Secure Data Exchange**

via one (or more) of the following:

- Health Information Exchange (HIE)
- eHealth Exchange/Carequality Trust Framework, with or without Direct Trust
- Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) / Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN)

**APHL AIMS Platform**

**Trigger Codes & Timing Parameters**  
eRSD  
(Electronic Reporting and Surveillance Distribution System)

**CSTE / CDC Decision Support Engine**  
RCKMS  
(Reportable Condition Knowledge Management System)

AIMS

eICR & RR

eICR & RR

**Public Health Agency**  
where care was provided

**Public Health Agency**  
of patient residence

# Project Overview

- The eCR over TEFCA project was initiated to establish a pathway for electronic case reporting (eCR) using a Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN).
- This effort required close collaboration across partners to meet an ambitious timeline and demonstrate one of the first TEFCA use cases.



# eCR over TEFCA Project Objectives



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By July 1, 2024, establish and implement a TEFCA-compliant method for transmitting eCR documents to the AIMS public health intermediary, utilizing eHealth Exchange as the dedicated TEFCA-approved QHIN, with successful connectivity and data flow demonstrated across at least 1 healthcare organizations.



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Align with the TEFCA vision of **connecting healthcare organizations and public health authorities** through a **standardized framework** for secure data exchange.



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**Demonstrate an early use case** of the integration and infrastructure to test technical feasibility, guide development efforts, and set a **foundation for broader adoption.**

# Strategic Alignment

## Enhanced Interoperability

By advancing the shift away from individual provider-level agreements, TEFCA helps facilitate faster flow of information – not as many checks that need to be done from a data sharing standpoint.

## Alignment with Federal Standards

TEFCA aligns with federal regulations and standards, helping healthcare organizations comply with legal requirements such as those under HIPAA for secure data exchange.



## Standardized Data Exchange

eCR over TEFCA positions STLTs and CDC at the forefront of TEFCA adoption through successful implementation of an early use case.

## Improved Public Health Reporting and Monitoring

The TEFCA framework makes it easier to aggregate and analyze data for public health monitoring and reporting, ultimately enhancing the ability to track disease outbreaks and health trends.

## Strengthened Collaboration

This effort promoted effective working relationships across partners through close collaboration.

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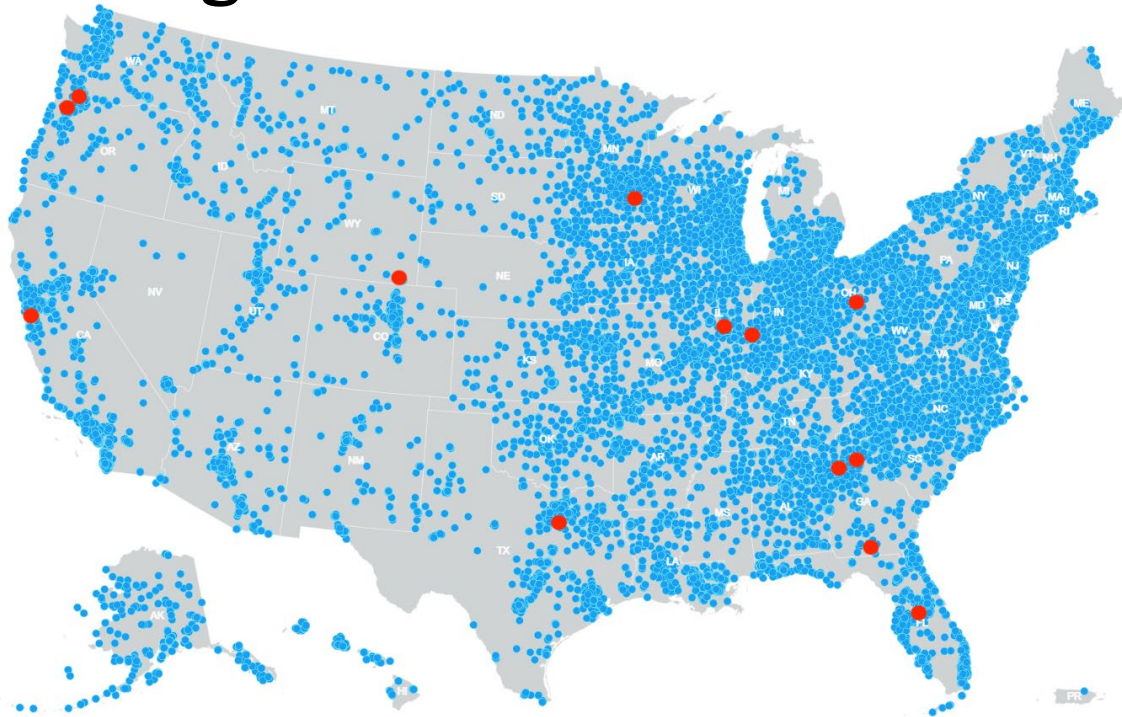
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where care was provided

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**13** healthcare organizations sending eICR documents via TEFCA



- Facilities in production for eICR
- HCOs sending eICRs via TEFCA



**1.04M**

eICR documents sent via TEFCA  
(1,040,494 million)



**58** unique jurisdictional public health agencies received eICRs sent via TEFCA



## Align with the TEFCA vision of connecting healthcare organizations and public health authorities through a standardized framework for secure data exchange.

### Outcomes:

- Maintained jurisdictional priorities while advancing a national proof of concept.
- Demonstrated the power of successful cross-sector (private, non-profit and public) collaboration in solving complex clinical and public health data exchange challenges.
- Forged strong technical partnerships between eHealth Exchange, Epic, and APHL.
- Created a blueprint for integration of new technologies with established public health systems
- Project helped to refine the distinct yet complementary roles HIEs, QHINs, and public health intermediaries to advance nationwide interoperability.



Demonstrate an early use case of the integration and infrastructure to test technical feasibility, guide development efforts, and set a foundation for broader adoption.

### Outcomes:

- Established a proof of concept for TEFCA-based public health data exchange.
- 13 Epic HCOs have transitioned to sending eCR through TEFCA since 7/1.
- Established a foundation to explore additional public health use cases for push-based data transmission, in compliance with applicable laws
- Allows jurisdictions the flexibility to establish how to structure their connections, needs, and policies around TEFCA individual query and response capabilities without having to disrupt existing data flows.

# Looking forward

- **Build on the success of the pilot** by expanding to additional HCOs pursuing eCR connectivity via TEFCA.
- Continue to work with partners to **ensure alignment** between TEFCA implementation and public health data exchange needs and priorities.
- Continue to **evaluate and optimize** technical solutions and critical infrastructure to identify efficiencies.
- Articulate and formalize the interdependent roles of these networks and systems.

# Questions?



ELECTRONIC  
CASE REPORTING