

ONC TEFCA

Recognized Coordinating Entity

Monthly Informational Call

November 17, 2020



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

This project is supported by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under 90AX0026/01-00 Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) Cooperative Agreement. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by ONC, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Agenda

- Welcome
- RCE Status Update
- QHIN Metrics Development
- TEFCA Value Proposition
- QHIN to QHIN Fee ARTCs
- Questions & Answers

Meet the RCE Team



Mariann Yeager
CEO
The Sequoia Project



Dave Cassel
Executive Director,
Carequality



Stephanie Rizk
Manager, Health IT Policy
RTI International

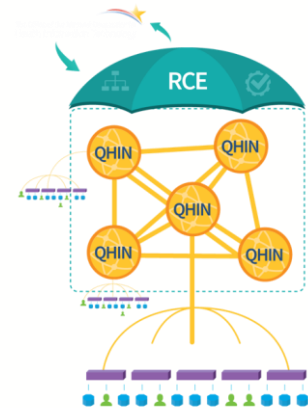


Chantal Worzala
Principal,
Alazro Consulting

RCE Update

Status Update

- Common Agreement Draft Version 1 for public comment
- Stakeholder feedback sessions
- Define QHIN onboarding and designation process
- Update the Common Agreement based on public comments
- Modify the QHIN Technical Framework based on public comments



QHIN Metrics Development

QHIN Metrics Development: Feedback

- Adjustments to proposed metrics based on feedback gathered in July/August 2020.
- Additional extended period for stakeholder feedback on updated metrics available until this Friday November 20th, 2020.
- Comments can be submitted through ThinkTank or submitted in writing to the RCE at rce@sequoiaproject.org
- ThinkTank information:
 - <https://engage.thinktank.net/sessionJoin/-MJDBvVRVf1Oa1MxFV2j>
 - Password: RCE20

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/qhin-metrics-feedback/>

TEFCA Value Proposition

TEFCA Value Proposition

- **Overall value proposition**
 - Nationwide scale
 - Simplified connectivity
 - Standardized approaches to trust frameworks and technical standards
- **Implications unique to stakeholder groups**
 - ✓ Health information networks
 - Patients and consumers
 - State government and public health
 - Providers
 - Payers
- **Build from stakeholder views**
- **Discuss what stakeholders can do to prepare**



The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement –

Benefits for Health Information Networks (HINs)

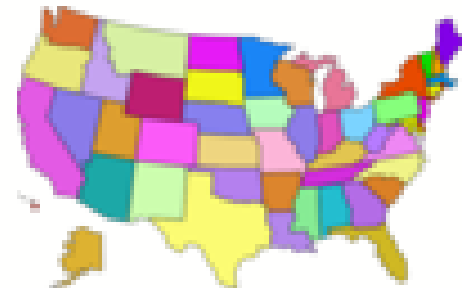
Together with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), we are building the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) established by the 21st Century Cures Act. Once operational, the TEFCA will facilitate exchange of health information on a nationwide scale, simplify connectivity among networks, and create efficiency by establishing a standardized approach to exchange policies and technical frameworks.

The TEFCA will offer nationwide approach for the exchange of relevant health information to support a range of exchange purposes, such as treatment, payment, quality assessment, benefits determination, consumer access to health information, and public health.

The TEFCA will provide a common set of rules that are federally recognized, greatly reducing the burden health information networks (HINs) currently face when they try to establish connections with entities outside their networks. Consistent policies and technical approaches will increase the overall exchange of health information. The TEFCA will also provide a structure for engaged parties to work together on coordinated, uniform adoption of new technologies and use cases over time.

The ultimate goal of the TEFCA is to enhance provider and consumer access to health information that supports better clinical decision-making, improved outcomes, and lower costs. HINs participating in the TEFCA will play a pivotal role in reaching that goal and will benefit greatly from its achievement.

Value Proposition for State Governments and Public Health



Benefits

- Supporting healthier populations through easier access to relevant information
- Simplified information exchange supports:
 - Medicaid and other state health programs
 - Public health reporting and bidirectional exchange
 - Emergency preparedness and response
- Augmenting state-level information exchange initiatives
 - Expanded participants
 - Directory services
 - Cross-border exchange

Challenges

- Variation in public health laws across states and jurisdictions
 - Information to be shared
 - Consent
 - Programmatic rules
- Funding to support modernization of information systems and connectivity
 - Patchwork of current solutions
 - Possible funding through Medicaid and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - Sustainability funding a key issue
- Need to work through public health use cases
 - eCase Reporting
 - Immunization registries
 - Investigation

QHIN to QHIN Fees

Additional Required Terms & Conditions (ARTCs): QHIN to QHIN (Q2Q) Fees

- Overarching Assumption
 - QHINs must support all Exchange Purposes and exchange with all other QHINs for those purposes.
- Varying perspectives and assumptions
 - **Permit fees for all Exchange Purposes, *except for Treatment*:**
 - There may not be parity among QHINs in terms of connectivity, transaction volumes or quality of data exchanged for treatment purposes.
 - Treatment-based exchange is pervasive; the value is difficult to quantify.
 - Concern that costs will likely be passed to providers, impacting utilization.
 - **Permit fees for *all* Exchange Purposes:**
 - There will *not* be parity among QHINs in terms of connectivity.
 - QHINs should be treated as utilities, with fees tied to volume versus purpose.
 - Permitting fees for some but not all purposes may promote “gaming the system.”
 - ***Do not permit fees for any* Exchange Purposes:**
 - There will be parity among QHINs in terms of connectivity, so fees balance out.
 - QHIN fees to Participants are expected to cover all Exchange Purpose costs

QHIN to QHIN Fees: Other Considerations

- Broader concern regarding network parity where QHINs with limited connectivity/data could derive significant value from its participation while contributing little in return.
- Concerns that larger QHINs could gain market advantage and price others out of the market in the absence of clear, objective criteria for Q2Q fees.

QHIN to QHIN Fee ARTCs: Feedback

- Additional extended period for stakeholder feedback on updated draft QHIN to QHIN Fee ARTCs available now, November 17th through Thursday December 17th, 2020.
- Comments can be submitted through ThinkTank or submitted in writing to the RCE at rce@sequoiaproject.org
- ThinkTank information:
 - <https://engage.thinktank.net/sessionJoin/-MLJihJX5lopK7OyfQ>
 - Password: QHIN2020



Questions & Answers