RCE Public Webinar:

Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) Technical Framework (QTF)

March 18, 2020
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Agenda

• Welcome
• What is the QHIN Technical Framework?
• QHIN Technical Framework: Background
• QHIN Technical Framework: Elements
• Questions and Feedback
Meet the RCE Team

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What is the QHIN Technical Framework?

The QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) describes the technical and functional requirements for EHI exchange between QHINs.

Developed by the RCE for public comment.
QHIN Technical Framework: Background

- The QTF describes the technical and functional requirements to implement the Common Agreement and enable health information networks to connect to each other
  - Focus on QHIN to QHIN exchange
- The QTF will be incorporated by reference in the Common Agreement
- ONC issued for public comment Draft 2 of the TEFCA that will support the full network-to-network exchange of health information nationally. Specifically, the documents released for public comment were a second draft of the TEF, a second draft of the MRTCs, and a first draft of QHIN Technical Framework.
- The RCE is working to flesh out a proposed QTF Draft 2.
- Public Stakeholder Feedback Sessions:
  - Sequoia Project Annual Meeting – December 4, 2019
  - Public Listening Session – December 11, 2019
  - ONC Annual Meeting Breakout Session – January 27, 2020
  - Public stakeholder feedback session to review QTF Draft 2 – March 18, 2020
Elements of the QHIN Technical Framework

- **Supported Information Flows:**
  - Patient Discovery
  - Document Query
  - Message Delivery

- **Functions and Technology to Support Exchange**
  - Certificate Policy
  - Secure Channel
  - Mutual QHIN Server Authentication
  - User Authentication
  - Authorization and Exchange Purpose
  - Patient Identity Resolution
  - Individual Privacy Preferences
  - Directory Services
  - Auditing
  - Error Handling
  - Onboarding and Testing

**Approach:**
- Build from current capabilities
- Deploy known standards
- Keep an eye toward future approaches
Currently Contemplated QHIN Query Approach

Figure 1. Sequence Diagram for Query

- Participant
  - Query Solicitation
  - Response
- Initiating QHIN
  - QHIN Query
- Responding QHIN
  - Request for EHI
  - Response
- Participant
Document Content

• We expect the first version of the QTF for production use to focus on document (e.g. C-CDA) exchange

• We anticipate that a C-CDA, Plain Text and PDF will be permitted, as long as participating organizations are able to support a minimum of required document types
  – Other types can be permitted with prior arrangement with the receiver
  – Specialty formats for public health, payer coverage, etc. can also be used

• USCDI will be required after January 1, 2022
Document Content

• We propose to rely on the Joint CommonWell/Carequality Document Content Recommendations document, key elements of which are:
  – Encounter summary documents must be supported where applicable, in addition to patient summary documents
  – Encounter summaries must adhere to the Progress Note or Discharge Summary C-CDA templates
  – Clinical notes must be included, when available, for both types of encounter summaries
• We are seeking feedback on this approach
Message Delivery Background

• Use case examples:
  – Sending messages when Direct address is unknown
    • Provider requests QHIN to deliver a message to neurology department of ABC Health Care containing information relevant to a referral
    • Individual sharing her records with a physician to secure a second opinion
  – Public health purposes
    • Reporting
    • Alerts
  – Notifications sent between systems

• Technical approach:
  – XCDR for message delivery between QHINs
  – QHIN and Participants can implement own approaches internally
Currently Contemplated QHIN Message Delivery Approach
Technical Considerations

• TEFCA ecosystem will be high-volume and high-performing
  – Scope and speed of transactions

• Efficient patient discovery is expected to require Record Locator Service (RLS) or a Master Patient Index (MPI)
  – QHINs serving small number of large, sophisticated Participants may be a notable exception and use a federated system
Demographics Fields for Patient Matching

• Both Query and Message Delivery require the transaction to be matched to a patient record.

• Both will rely on demographics-based matching algorithms.
  – We are eager for other mechanisms to become available with wide adoption, but for now acknowledge this reality.

• For QHIN Query, we propose that any supported (in XCPD) demographics field must be sent if it is populated/available.
  – With the likely exception of SSN

• Recipients may ignore data not used by their matching algorithms.
Demographics Fields for Patient Matching

• We propose a subset of required fields that must always be populated.
  – Name, sex, DOB, address components (street, city, state, zip), phone number.
• Other fields that may be supported are: multiple birth indicator and/or birth order, mother’s maiden name, other legal names a patient used, previous address, patient Identifier, birth time, birthplace name and/or email address.
• We are seeking feedback on this approach.
Next Steps
RCE Timeline

Activities to Date

- Project Kick-Off Sep 19
- Public Kick-Off Call Oct 19
- Iterative Work with ONC on MRTCs Oct 19 – present
- Develop ARTCs and QHIN Technical Framework Oct 20 - present
- 10+ Public Feedback Sessions Nov 19 – Mar 20
- 12+ Targeted Stakeholder Feedback Sessions Dec 19 – Mar 20

Next Steps

- QHIN Technical Framework Updates Spring
- RCE Governance Planning Spring/Summer
- Additional Public Feedback Sessions
- Additional Targeted Stakeholder Feedback Sessions
- Common Agreement released for comment
Thank You!