ONC TEFCA
Recognized Coordinating Entity
Monthly Informational Call
August 17, 2021
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
- Timeline
- QTF Overview
- Common Agreement Update
- Public Input Opportunities
- Questions & Answers
Meet the RCE Team

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CEO  
The Sequoia Project

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Executive Director,  
Carequality

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Principal,  
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Timeline
Timeline to Operationalize TEFCA

**Summer/Fall/Winter 2021**
- Public engagement webinars.
- RCE and ONC use feedback to finalize CA V1 and QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) V1.

**Calendar Q1 of 2022**
- Release Final Trusted Exchange Framework, CA V1 Final, and QTF V1 Final.

**During 2022**
- QHINs begin signing Common Agreement.
- QHINs selected, onboarded, and begin sharing data on rolling basis.
QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Overview
Exchange Modalities

Query
- Patient Query
- Document Query
- Document Retrieve

Message Delivery
- Message Delivery
## QHIN Specified Standards – Two Exchange Modalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange Functions</th>
<th>Specified Standard(s) / Profile(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secure Channel</td>
<td>• IETF TLS 1.2 w/ BCP-195 or IETF TLS 1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mutual Server Authentication</td>
<td>• IETF TLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Authentication</td>
<td>• IHE XUA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorization &amp; Exchange Purpose</td>
<td>• IHE XUA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QHIN Query for Patients</strong></td>
<td>• IHE XCPD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>QHIN Query for Documents</strong></td>
<td>• IHE XCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QHIN Message Delivery</strong></td>
<td>• IHE XCDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing</td>
<td>• IHE ATNA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information Exchange Modalities

- **Query/Message Source**
- **QHIN**
  - Initiating QHIN
- **Initiating Gateway**
- **Responding QHIN(s)**
- **Responding Gateway(s)**
- **QHIN**
  - Initiating Query/Message Source
  - Any number of hops between Query/Message Source and QHIN
  - IHE XCPD [ITI-55];
  - IHE XCA Query [ITI-38];
  - IHE XCA Retrieve [ITI-39];
  - IHE XCDR [ITI-80]
  - Request
  - Response/Acknowledgement

- **QHIN(s)**
- **Responding Source**
  - Request
  - Any number of hops between Responding Source and QHIN
  - Response/Acknowledgement
Participant / Subparticipant Requirements

• Most requirements apply to QHINs

• See “Constraints for Participants and Subparticipants” for flow down technical requirements, including:
  – C-CDA 2.1
  – Include all available demographics
  – USCDI V1 data classes/elements
  – MUST handle parsing of (Instance) Access Consent Policy
  – Audit logging
  – TLS 1.2+ between Participant and QHIN

• Other requirements will be set by QHINs on their own Participants, including:
  – Patient lookup – RLS, QHIN-level eMPI, federated
  – Specific connectivity between QHIN and Participant
When Will TEFCA Have FHIR?

• FHIR roadmap planned for release with the final QTF Version 1.
• Value of FHIR based exchange when using certified health IT
• Need to address concerns based on QHIN-to-QHIN exchange model:
  – Security model with multi-hop.
  – OAuth not designed for multi-hop.
    • Originating user unknown to responder.
  – Routing RESTful transactions over multi-hop
• We are asking for feedback on how to support FHIR-based exchange in the future.
Request for QTF Feedback

Sample Topics for Consideration

- Definitions
- QHIN exchange scenarios for query
- QHIN exchange scenarios for message delivery
- Requirements for functions and technology to support exchange
- Constraints for participants and subparticipants

Should QTF include QHIN Message Delivery?

- Option 1: Require “QHIN Message Delivery” modality in QTF using the Integrating the Health Care Enterprise (IHE) Cross-Community Document Reliable Interchange (XCDR) profile with a future transition to FHIR; or
- Option 2: Defer “QHIN Message Delivery” from QTF until a FHIR based solution is readily available; or
- Option 3: Include “QHIN Message Delivery” using XCDR as optional in QTF until a FHIR based solution is readily available.

https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/qtf-feedback/
Common Agreement (CA) Update
Common Agreement

- Common Agreement
  - Revise to reflect public, work group, and ONC input
  - Initial set of standard operating procedures (SOPs)
    - QHIN eligibility criteria
- Public input: August – September 2021
- Common Agreement Work Group
- Prepare CA v.1 for adoption
Public Input Opportunities
Opportunities for Stakeholder Engagement

• QHIN Technical Framework
  – Overview webinar: August 4 from 1:30pm - 2:30pm ET – **Recording & Slides Available now!**
  – Deep Dive webinar: August 18 from 1:00 – 3:00pm ET – **Still time to register!**
  – QTF feedback form on the RCE website:
    - [https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/qhin-technical-framework-feedback/](https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/qhin-technical-framework-feedback/)

• Health IT Advisory Committee (HITAC) – October 13

• Monthly Informational Calls – 3rd Tuesday each month

Sign up for webinars at: [https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/](https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/)
Questions? Email us at rce@sequoiaproject.org
Questions & Answers