



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

January 23, 2024

TEFCA Webinar 1: Overview of Key Concepts in Version 2.0 Documents

Zoe Barber, RCE Policy Director
Johnathan Coleman, RCE CISO
Didi Davis, RCE Conformance Testing
Lindsey Elkind, RCE Legal SME
Kathryn Lucia, RCE Policy Analyst
Dave Pyke, RCE Technical SME
Alan Swenson, RCE Program Operations Lead
Steve “Sully” Sullivan, RCE Program Operations
Erin Whaley, RCE Legal SME
Chantal Worzala, RCE Stakeholder Engagement
Mariann Yeager, RCE Lead



- Review TEFCASM Exchange
- ONC Welcome
- Review TEFCA Timeline
- Governance and Change Management Approach
- Overview of Feedback Period and Process
- Overview of Documents Released for Feedback
- Understanding Key Concepts that have Evolved from Common Agreement Version 1.1 to Version 2.0
- Focus on QHINTM Technical Framework Updates and FHIR[®]

**TEFCA is Live
and Looking to
the Future with
FHIR!**



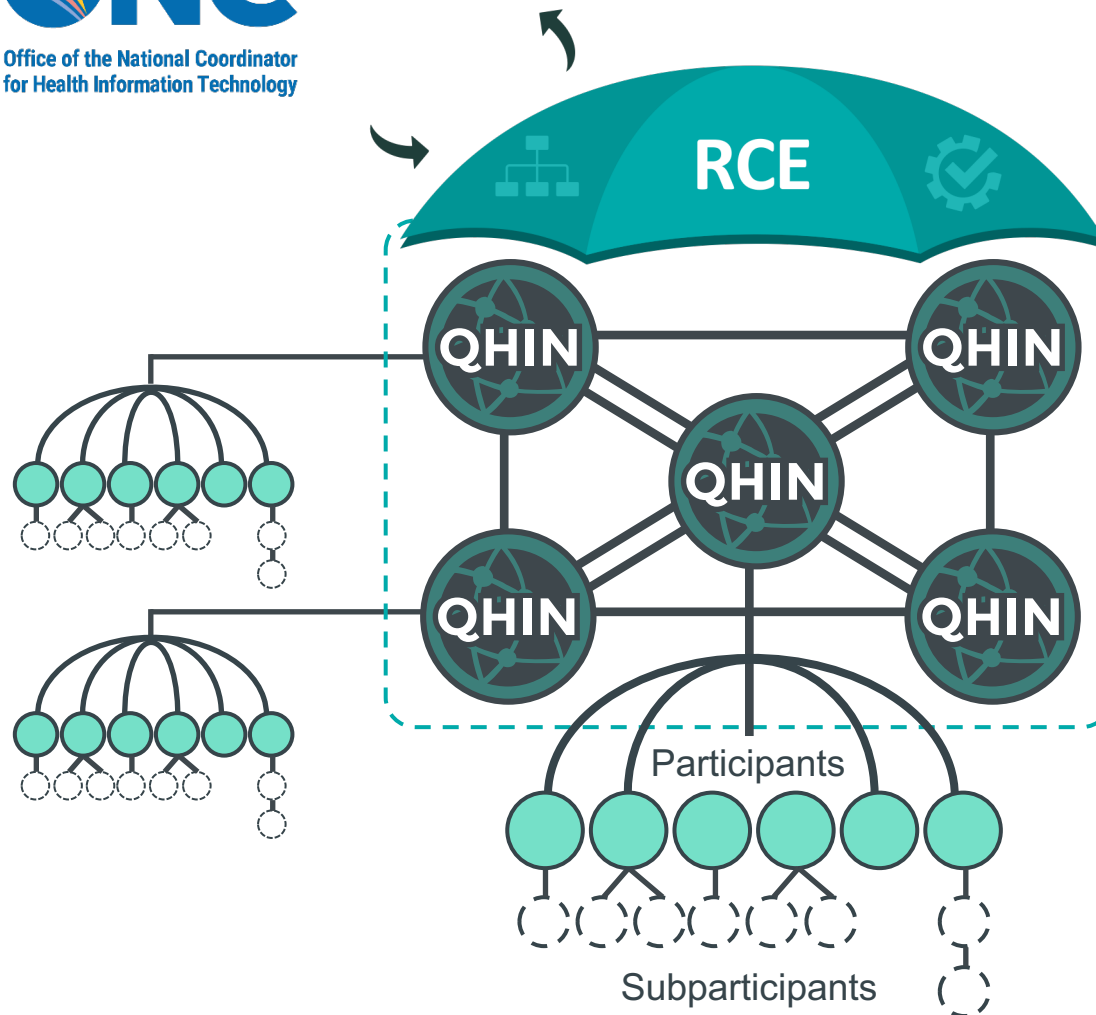
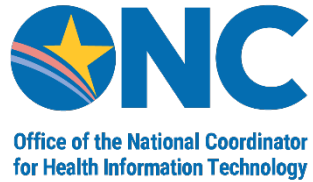
- Webinar 2:
January 30th | 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. ET
 - » Deep dive on Common Agreement Version 2.0 and Terms of Participation
 - » Review of Delegation of Authority SOP and RCE Directory Service Requirements Policy SOP
- Webinar 3:
February 2nd | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET
 - » Deep dive on Exchange Purposes (XPs) SOP, XP Implementation SOPs, and Individual Access Services (IAS) Provider Requirements SOP



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

TEFCA Exchange

How Will Exchange Work Under TEFCA?



← ONC defines overall policy and certain governance requirements.

← RCE provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs.

← Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs) connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability.

← Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants.

TEFCA Components



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY



Trusted
Exchange
Framework



Framework
Agreements



Standard
Operating
Procedures



QHIN
Technical
Framework



QHIN
Onboarding



Metrics



Governing
Approach



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

ONC Welcome



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

TEFCA is Live!

Congratulations to Our Newly Designated QHINs™!

eHealth Exchange

KONZA
NATIONAL NETWORK

mi | MedAllies

Epic Nexus

HEALTH
GORILLA

Applicant QHINs include CommonWell Health Alliance, eClinicalWorks, Kno2, and Surescripts Health Information Network.



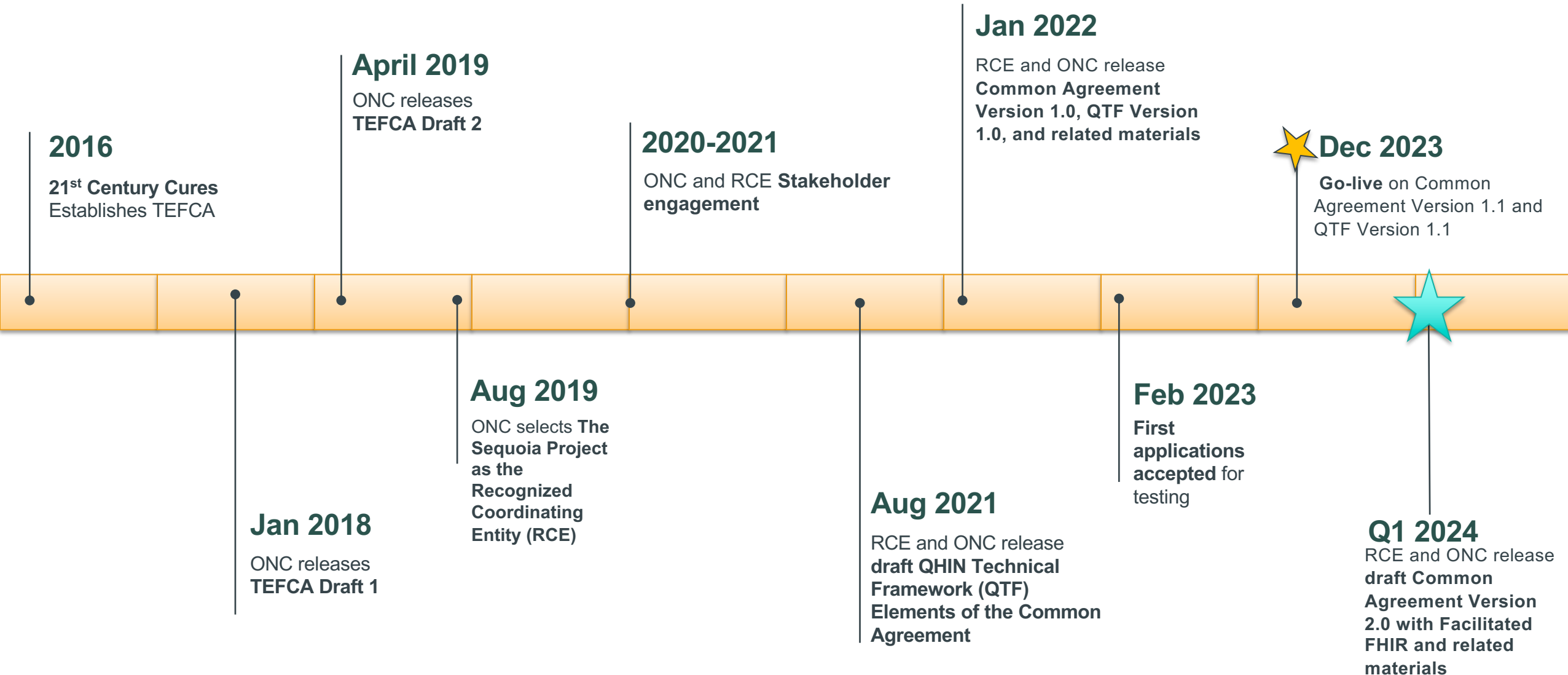
TEFCA is Looking to the Future

- Updates to technical and policy documents to support greater use of FHIR
- Better support for use cases beyond Treatment
- Stand-alone and static Terms of Participation to ease onboarding
- Ability to participate with multiple QHINs

TEFCA Evolution



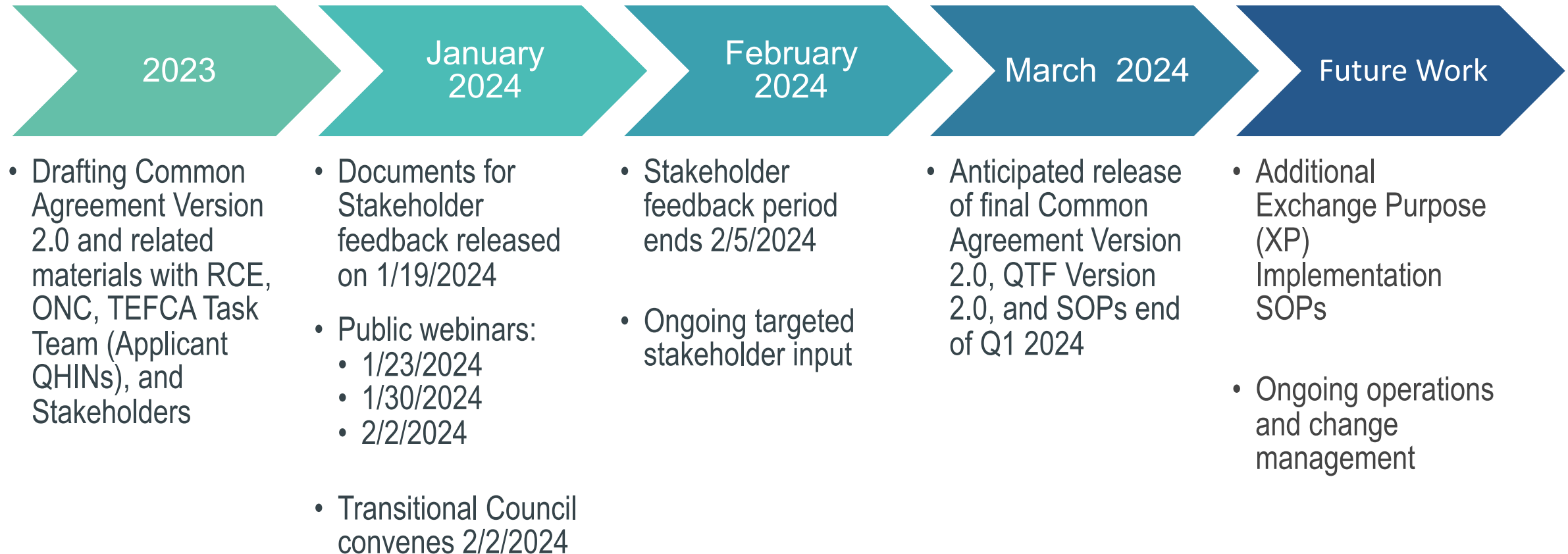
ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY



Common Agreement and QTF Version 2.0 Evolution



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

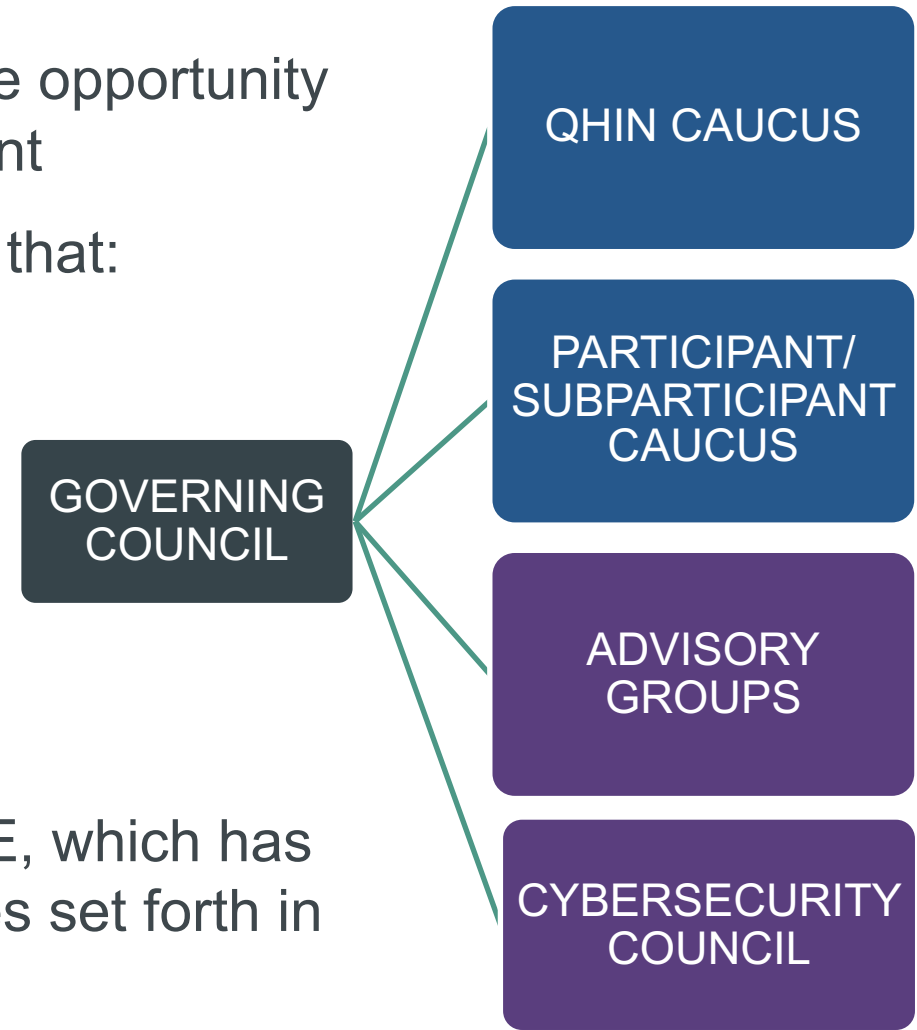


Governance and Change Management Approach



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

- QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants shall have the opportunity to engage in governance under the Common Agreement
- The Common Agreement creates a Governing Council that:
 - » Reviews amendments to the Common Agreement, QTF, and SOPs
 - » Serves as a resource to the RCE and forum for discussion
 - » Provides oversight for resolution of disputes
- A Transitional Council serves during TEFCA's first year
- Under the contract, ONC oversees the work of the RCE, which has specific obligations to follow the governance procedures set forth in the Common Agreement



Common Agreement Versions At-a-Glance



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

January 2022

Common Agreement **v1**

The Common Agreement version 1 was the initial version of the Common Agreement and reflected policies developed with extensive public input.

Related QTF Version: 1
Related FHIR Roadmap Version: 1

December 2023

Common Agreement **v1.1**

The Common Agreement version 1.1 included changes required by HHS prior to TEFCA exchange going live. *This is the version in operation as of the official launch of TEFCA exchange.*

Related QTF Version: 1.1
Related FHIR Roadmap Version: 2

Common Agreement **v2**

The Common Agreement version 2 will include enhancements and updates to require support of HL7 FHIR® based transactions.

Related QTF Version: 2 – DRAFT
Related FHIR Roadmap Version: 2

Much Anticipated Draft Common Agreement Version 2 and Other Materials Released for Feedback

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/rce-draft-documents-for-feedback/>

- The RCE is seeking stakeholder input online through **Monday, February 5**. Stakeholders can submit input via the **feedback form on our website, email feedback to rce@sequoiaproject.org**, or attend [upcoming webinars](#).
- The RCE will thoroughly review all feedback received via the webinars and online feedback forms for each document.
- The community is encouraged to submit comments all year long on the RCE website's general feedback form.



The RCE has released a set of draft materials in support of FHIR adoption and other advancements. These build from the existing framework and include:

Common Agreement Version 2.0

QHIN Technical Framework Version 2.0

Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP)

New Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- Expectations for Cooperation
- Delegation of Authority
- Governance Approach
- XP Implementation SOP: Public Health (PH) SubXP-1
- RCE Directory Service Requirements Policy

Updated SOPs

- Exchange Purposes (XPs)
- XP Implementation SOP: Individual Access Services (IAS) Demographic Matched – *Updated from IAS Exchange Purpose Implementation*
- IAS Provider Requirements – *Updated from IAS Provider Privacy and Security Notice and Practices*
- XP Implementation SOP: Health Care Operations (HCO) SubXP-1 – *Updated from previously released draft*

New Explanatory Resources

- TEFCA Glossary
- TEFCA Cross Reference Resource

TEFCA Glossary and Cross Reference Resource



The **TEFCA Glossary** is intended to serve as an in-depth compilation of terms and their definitions referenced in the Common Agreement Version 2.0, QTF Version 2.0, Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP) Version 1.0, and the SOPs.

The **TEFCA Cross Reference Resource** is intended to help QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants understand which SOPs are relevant to which sections of the applicable Framework Agreements.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE WE STRIVE TO MAINTAIN ACCURACY IN THIS RESOURCE, IT IS PROVIDED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. THIS RESOURCE SHOULD NOT BE SOLELY RELIED UPON BY QHINs, PARTICIPANTS, OR SUBPARTICIPANTS. IT IS ULTIMATELY A QHIN'S, PARTICIPANT'S, OR SUBPARTICIPANT'S CONTRACTUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE IT IS COMPLIANT WITH ALL APPLICABLE SOPs REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE LISTED IN THIS RESOURCE.

TEFCA Glossary

PURPOSE

This TEFCA glossary is intended to serve as an in-depth compilation of terms and their definitions as referenced in the Common Agreement Version 2, the Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP) Version 1, the Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) Framework (QTF) Version 2, and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

All references to Signatory in a definition below or in the Common Agreement Version 2, the Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP) Version 1, the Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN) Framework (QTF) Version 2, and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are only subject to federal law. Source: Common Agreement Version 2

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Access Consent Policy (ACP): policies that may influence access control decisions which can be referenced in queries. Source: QTF Version 2

Actor: a QHIN, Participant, Subparticipant. Source: QTF Version 2

Applicable Law: all federal, State, local, or tribal laws and regulations then applicable to the subject matter herein. For the avoidance of doubt, federal laws are only subject to federal law. Source: Common Agreement Version 2

Applicant or Applicant QHIN: means any organization that has submitted an application to be a QHIN to the RCE as specified in the QHIN Onboarding and Designation SOP. Applicant also includes those organizations that have submitted a QHIN Application to the RCE for completeness review as set forth in the QHIN Onboarding and Designation SOP. Source: QHIN Onboarding & Designation SOP

Assigning Authority: the organization that issues a patient identifier. Source: QHIN Onboarding & Designation SOP

B

Breach of Unencrypted Individually Identifiable Information: the acquisition, disclosure, or use of unencrypted Individually Identifiable Information maintained by a Provider that compromises the security or privacy of the unencrypted Individually Identifiable information. Source: Common Agreement Version 2

Business Associate: has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 164.502. Source: Common Agreement Version 2

TEFCA Cross Reference Resource

CROSS REFERENCE TABLE

Common Agreement v2 Section	ToP Section	Applicable SOPs
Section 1		
Cybersecurity Council		QHIN Security Requirements for Protection of TEFCA Information
Exchange Purposes (XPs)	Section 1	Exchange Purposes (XPs)
Governance Services	Section 1	QHIN Onboarding & Designation
Participant & Subparticipant	Section 1	Types of Entities that can be a Participant or Subparticipant in TEFCA
Privacy and Security Notice	Section 1	IAS Provider Requirements
Qualified Health Information Network	Section 1	QHIN Onboarding & Designation
RCE Directory Service	Section 1	RCE Directory Services Requirements Policy
TEFCA Exchange	Section 1	Exchange Purposes (XPs)
Section 3.2		Governance Approach Transitional Council TEFCA Governing Council
Section 3.3		Advisory Groups
Section 4.1		QHIN Onboarding & Designation
Section 4.1(i)		Means to Demonstrate U.S. Ownership & Control of a QHIN
Section 4.1(iii)		QHIN Onboarding & Designation
Section 4.1(iv)		QHIN Onboarding & Designation
Section 6.1	Section 2.1	Expectations for Cooperation
Section 7.2	Section 3.2	ONC Access to and Requests for Confidential Information

Key Concepts that have Evolved: Version 1.1 to Version 2.0

Common Agreement and QTF Version 1.1	Proposed Common Agreement and QTF Version 2.0
Fundamental requirements and components of TEFCA mostly included within Common Agreement and QTF Version 1.1	More details moved to SOPs
Model Participant/Subparticipant flow-down terms	Static Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation
Exchange only occurs QHIN-to-QHIN via IHE protocols	Facilitated FHIR available between Participants/Subparticipants
Exchange within QHINs not considered TEFCA exchange	TEFCA Exchange identified by unique TEFCA code
Six (6) authorized Exchange Purposes (XPs)	Six (6) authorized Exchange Purposes (XPs) with new sub exchange purposes and implementation guidance
Two (2) XPs require a response: Treatment and Individual Access Services (IAS)	Three (3) XPs require a response: Treatment, IAS, and Health Care Operations SubXP-1 (FHIR only)
All QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants must respond	Introduction of Principal/Delegate roles and requirements
Participants and Subparticipants may not participate with more than one QHIN	Participants and Subparticipants may conduct TEFCA Exchange in multiple QHINs using multiple Nodes
Privacy/security obligations apply to all	Privacy/security obligations apply to all



Restructuring to create flexibility and efficiency for future change management

- **New** *Expectations for Cooperation SOP*
- **New** *Governance Approach SOP*
- **Updated** *IAS Provider Requirements SOP*

New static *Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP)*

Facilitated FHIR allows for exchange to occur between point-to-point APIs, in addition to QHIN-to-QHIN IHE exchange

New definition of TEFCA Exchange in the Common Agreement

- **TEFCA Exchange:** the transaction of information between Nodes using a TEFCA-specific Exchange Purpose code as defined in the applicable SOP



New Principal/Delegate roles and requirements

- **Principal:** a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that is acting as a Covered Entity, Government Health Care Entity, Non-HIPAA Entity (NHE) Health Care Provider, a Public Health Authority, a government agency that makes a Government Benefits Determination, or an IAS Provider (as authorized by an Individual) when engaging in TEFCA Exchange
- **Delegate:** a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that (i) is not a Principal and (ii) has a written agreement, directly or indirectly, with a Principal authorizing the Delegate to conduct TEFCA Exchange activities for or on behalf of the Principal. For purposes of this definition, a “written agreement” shall be deemed to include a documented grant of authority from a government agency
- **Delegated Request:** a TEFCA Exchange Request initiated by a Delegate working for a Principal

New *Delegation of Authority SOP* includes specifications for Delegates in creating their RCE Directory Entry(ies) and in initiating Delegated Requests. Highlights include:

- Delegates must list all Principal(s) for whom the Delegate will be transmitting Delegated Requests in the RCE Directory Service
- In each Request, Delegates must include the Directory Entry assigned to the Principal for whom the Delegate is initiating the Request

Updated *Exchange Purposes (XPs) SOP* includes new requirements to clarify that Delegates must Respond to Requests if authorized by the written agreement authorizing the Delegate to conduct TEFCA Exchange for the Principal

Key Concepts Updated for Version 2.0



New terms defined in the Common Agreement to describe the technical systems controlled by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant and listed in the RCE Directory Service:

- **RCE Directory Service:** a technical service provided by the RCE that enables QHINs to identify its Nodes to enable TEFCA Exchange. The requirements for use of, inclusion in, and maintenance of the RCE Directory Service are set forth in the Framework Agreements, QTF, and applicable SOPs
- **Node:** a technical system controlled directly or indirectly by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that is listed in the RCE Directory Service
- **Initiating Node:** a Node through which a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant initiates transactions for TEFCA Exchange and, to the extent such transaction is a Request, receives a Response to such Request
- **Passthrough Node:** a Node that is neither an Initiating nor Responding Node and through which a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant passes transactions to and from Initiating and Responding Nodes, including any other services it provides
- **Responding Node:** a Node through which the QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant Responds to a received transaction for TEFCA Exchange

New *RCE Directory Service Requirements Policy SOP* describes the policy requirements that QHINs must follow when maintaining Directory Entries. Key highlights include:

- Allows Participants and Subparticipants to conduct TEFCA Exchange in multiple QHINs using multiple Nodes, as long as Nodes that share a HomeCommunityID or FHIR Endpoint are represented entirely under the same QHIN
- Initiating Nodes must also be or have an associated Responding Node

Exchange Purpose(s) or XP(s)



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

Updated Exchange Purposes (XPs) SOP includes proposed sub use cases, new TEFCA-specific Exchange Purpose Codes (XP Codes), and updated Response requirements.



Treatment

Payment

Health Care Operations

- Health Care Operations SubXP-1

Individual Access Services

Public Health

- Public Health SubXP-1

Government Benefits Determination

New XP Implementation: Health Care Operations SubXP-1

- SubXP-1 definition mirrors that in 45 CFR 164.501 Health Care Operations definition section (1)
- Responding Nodes with a FHIR Endpoint MUST Respond to FHIR Queries for HCO SubXP-1

New XP Implementation: Public Health SubXP-1

- Electronic Case Investigation and Electronic Disease/Condition Reporting (e.g., Electronic Case Reporting and Electronic Lab Reporting)
- Responding Nodes SHOULD respond to Requests for Case Investigation, in accordance with the Common Agreement and Applicable Law

Updated XP Implementation SOP: Individual Access Services (IAS): Demographic Matched

- Any Responding Node that receives a Request from an IAS Provider that includes the appropriate IAL2 Claims Token, and that achieves an acceptable demographics-based match based on responder policy MUST Respond
- Requirements for IAS Requests made using FHIR/OAuth with responder-issued credentials are out of scope for this SOP

Table 1 TEFCA XP Codes

Display Value	Code
Treatment	T-TRTMNT
Payment	T-PYMNT
Health Care Operations	T-HCO
Health Care Operations SubXP-1	T-HCO1
Public Health	T-PH
Public Health SubXP-1	
Electronic Case Reporting	T-PH-ECR
Electronic Lab Reporting	T-PH-ELR
Other Electronic Disease/Condition Reporting	T-PH-EDR
Electronic Case Investigation	T-PH-ECI
Individual Access Services	T-IAS
Government Benefits Determination	T-GOVDTRM



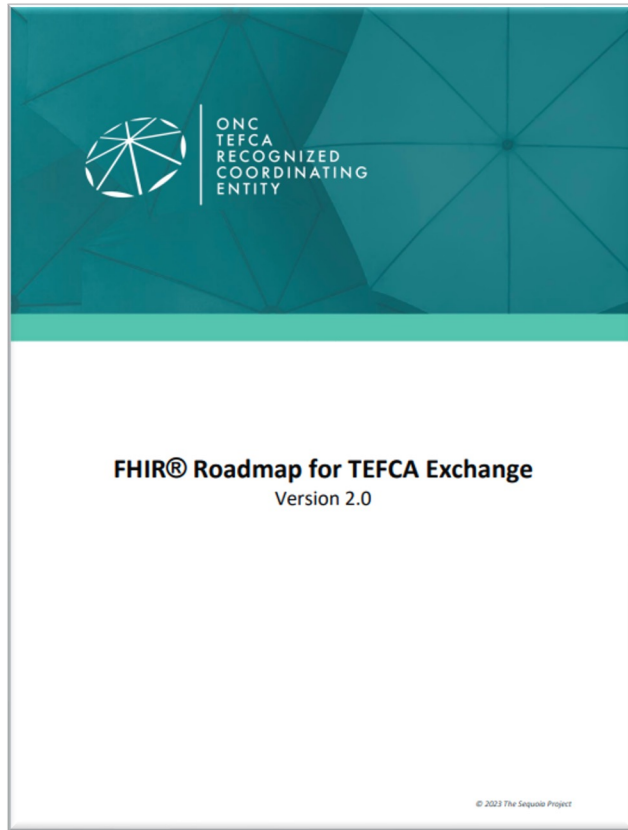
ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

(QHIN) Technical Framework (QTF) and FHIR®

Support of FHIR and Updated Roadmap



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY



[FHIR® Roadmap for TEFCA
Exchange Version 2
\(sequoiaproject.org\)](https://sequoiaproject.org)

- **Stage 1: FHIR Content Support**
 - Included as part of the initial launch of TEFCA.
 - QHIN-brokered IHE exchange of FHIR payloads between QHINs available
- **Stage 2: QHIN-Facilitated FHIR Exchange**
 - QHIN support for facilitated FHIR API exchange required
 - Participant and Subparticipant exchange via FHIR APIs available
- **Stage 3: QHIN-to-QHIN FHIR Exchange**
 - Support for exchange between QHINs via FHIR APIs
- **Stage 4: End-to-End FHIR Exchange**
 - Support for QHIN-brokered FHIR Exchange between Participants and Subparticipants

FHIR and TEFCA: General Requirements



ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

- TEFCA seeks to align with ONC and CMS regulations
 - Currently proposes use of FHIR R4 with US Core 3.1.1
 - Subsequent versions will move with regulations
- Servers SHOULD support the following on top of US Core
 - Bulk Data Access IG v1.0.1
 - Mobile access to Health Documents (MHD) v4.2.0
 - Da Vinci Payer Data Exchange v1.0.0
- All conversions of data MUST make a FHIR Provenance resource available that shows the source and Resources created

FHIR® Improves Health IT Interoperability





- Security is handled through OAuth 2.0 following the [HL7 FAST UDAP Security for Scalable Registration, Authentication, and Authorization](#)
- Extensions for OAuth include the hl7-b2b and TEFCA specific extensions for Business 2 Business and IAS use cases
- Additional constraints on OAuth scope handling are also specified to simplify scope requests and responses



- Removed requirement for SHA3-256 support
- QHINs must support Transport Layer Security (TLS) V1.2 AND TLS 1.3
- Changed audit requirements to require export in ATNA format and to follow transaction audit requirements for content
- Minor clarifications













ONC
TEFCA
RECOGNIZED
COORDINATING
ENTITY

Educational Resources and Upcoming Events



Fact Sheets

-  FHIR Roadmap for TEFCA Exchange v2
-  Questions to ask your QHIN or other TEFCA connector
-  TEFCA for Executives
-  TEFCA on FHIR
-  TEFCA for Individuals
-  Benefits for Health Information Networks (HINs)
-  Benefits for State Governments and Public Health
-  Benefits for Patients and Consumers
-  Benefits for the Payer Community
-  Benefits for Health Care Providers Across the Continuum

TEFCA FOR EXECUTIVES

You may have heard that TEFCA is now live

This means that the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM for sharing health information is operational and exchange is happening every minute. TEFCASM supports new and familiar exchange purposes, enabling driving innovation.

TEFCA provides an efficient vehicle to standardized electronic health information participants across the nation.



TEFCA FOR INDIVIDUALS

Individuals can access their health information via TEFCA

Almost everyone needs to access their own health information—or that of a loved one—over time. The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM) will make it easier for an individual's health information to be appropriately and securely shared online.

TEFCA will reduce the burden many patients experience as they navigate the health care system and seek to be sure that they, their doctors, and their caregivers have the right information.



TEFCA AND FHIR

HL7 FHIR is the latest addition to TEFCA Exchange

The draft Common Agreement (CA) v2.0 and draft Qualified Health Information NetworkTM (QHINTM) Technical Framework (QTF) V2.0 enable use of FHIR Release 4 for all use cases. Updated Implementation Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will also specify how to use FHIR for specific uses.

Once these documents are finalized, Participants and Subparticipants will be able to use Facilitated FHIR to exchange data if they want to. Facilitated FHIR is designed to allow organizations to conduct transactions directly with other participants in TEFCA exchange without having a prior connection in place. It is facilitated by usage of the RCETM Directory Service for scalable endpoint discovery, the Common Agreement for consistent policy requirements, and the QTF and relevant SOPs for TEFCA-specific technical requirements.

While the initial discovery of where a patient's data resides will be done through a query to their QHIN, TEFCA exchange can be done directly with FHIR-enabled organizations that have listed a FHIR endpoint in the RCE Directory Service. This will allow organizations with FHIR capabilities to do specific queries targeted to the data they need in support of the TEFCA use cases defined.





THINKING ABOUT JOINING TEFCA?

Questions to ask your QHIN or other TEFCA connector

Nationwide sharing of health information is now possible under the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM). The federally endorsed framework provides access to clinical data when and where it is needed for informed decisions, efficient care, and better outcomes.

In order to assist providers, payers, health information networks, public health agencies, app developers, and others that want to participate in TEFCA exchange choose the best QHIN, health information network, or other technology partner for connecting, the RCE has assembled a list of important questions to ask potential QHIN vendors or intermediary connectors.



RCE Resource Library

TEFCA is a multifaceted, living framework that enables seamless and secure nationwide exchange of health information.

GETTING STARTED



Below is a guide to the Common Agreement, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), technical documents, and other resources that make up TEFCA's rules of the road. Start your journey to next generation interoperability here.

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/rce-resources-new/>

Additional Resources:

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

All Events Registration and Recordings:

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/community-engagement/>

Upcoming Webinars:

January 30, 2024, 12:00pm – 1:30pm ET
February 2, 2024, 1:00pm – 2:00pm ET



Questions & Answers

For more information:
rce.sequoiaproject.org