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February 20, 2024

RCE Monthly Informational Call

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- Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM) Basics
- Common Agreement Version 2.0 and Related Documents
- Timeline and Feedback
- Educational Resources and Upcoming Events
- Questions and Answers

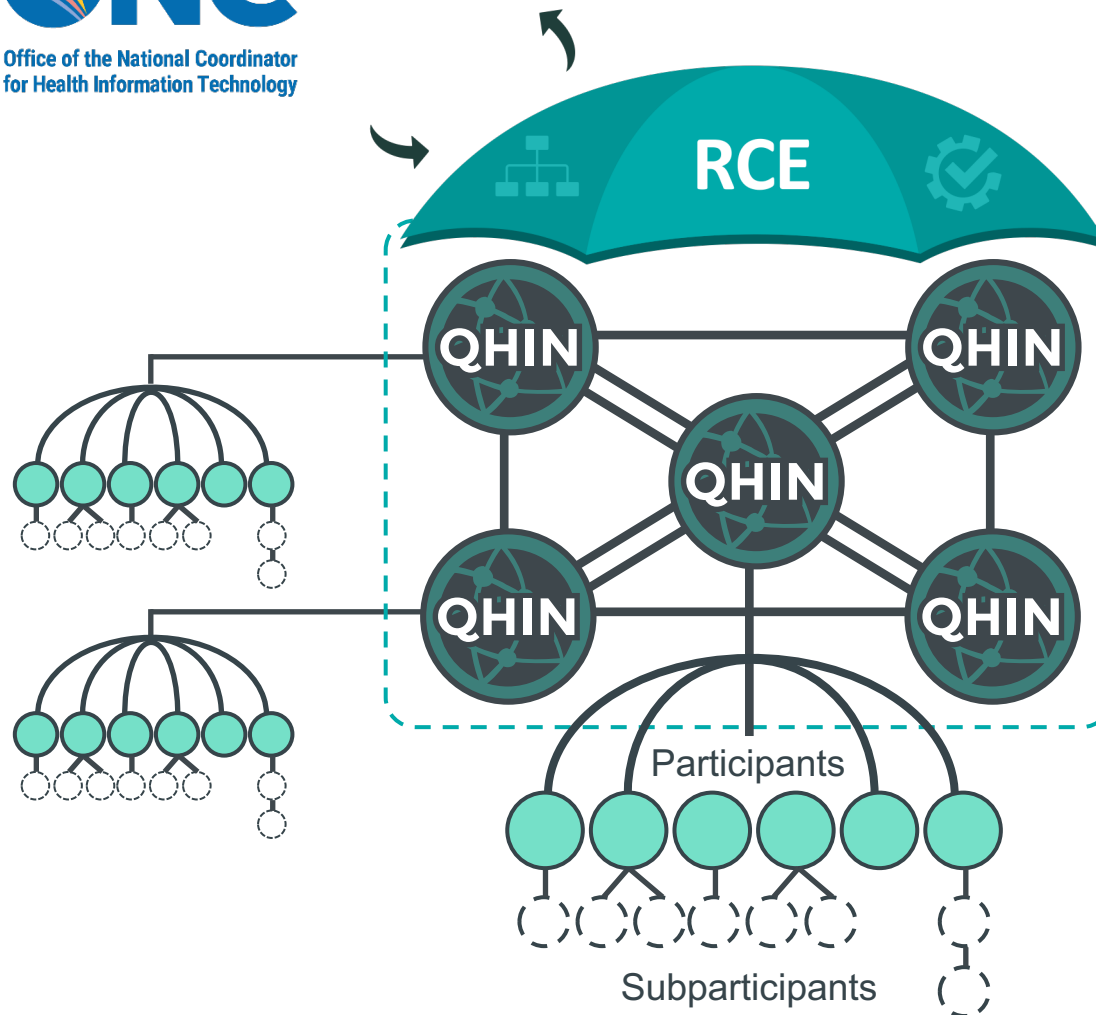
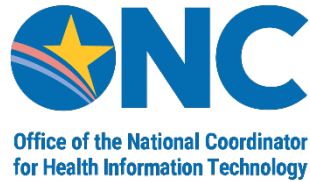
**TEFCA is Live
and Looking
to the Future
with FHIR®!**



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TEFCA Basics

How Does Exchange Work Under TEFCA?



← ONC defines overall policy and certain governance requirements.

← RCETM provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs.

← Qualified Health Information NetworksTM (QHINsTM) connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability.

← Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants.

TEFCA Components



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Trusted
Exchange
Framework



Framework
Agreements



Standard
Operating
Procedures



QHIN
Technical
Framework



QHIN
Onboarding



Metrics



Governing
Approach



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TEFCA is Live!

Congratulations to Our Newly Designated QHINs™!

eHealth Exchange

KONZA
NATIONAL NETWORK

mi | MedAllies

EpicNexus

HEALTH®
GORILLA

 **commonwell®**
HEALTH ALLIANCE

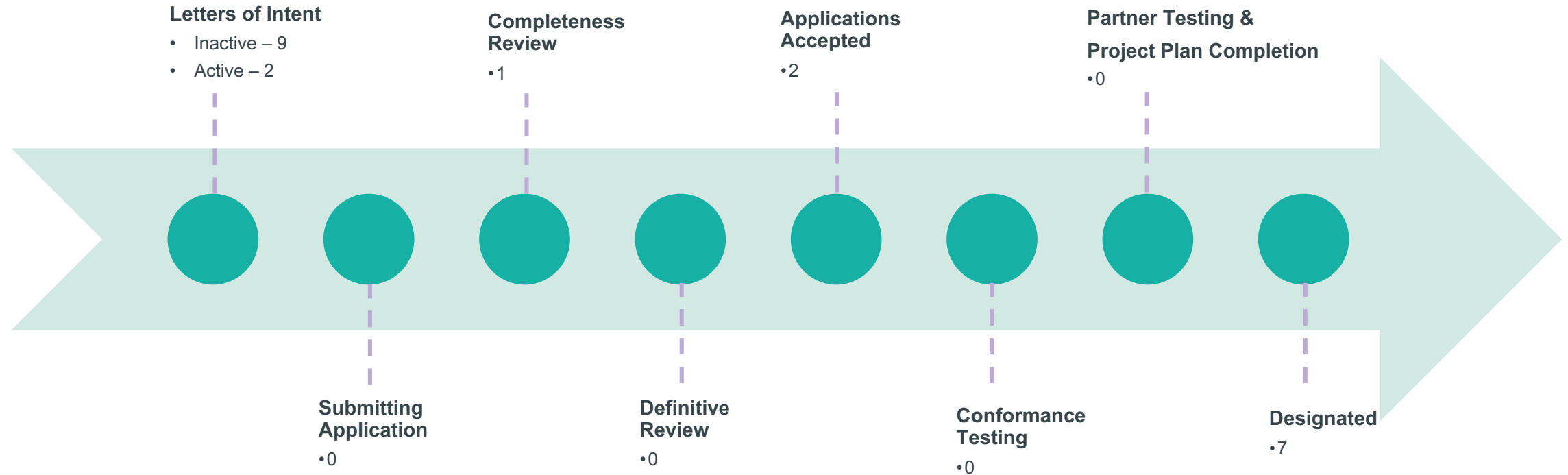
 **Kno2®**

Applicant QHINs include eClinicalWorks and Surescripts Health Information Network.

QHIN Application and Onboarding & Designation



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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



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Common Agreement Version 2.0 and Related Documents

Common Agreement Versions At-A-Glance



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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

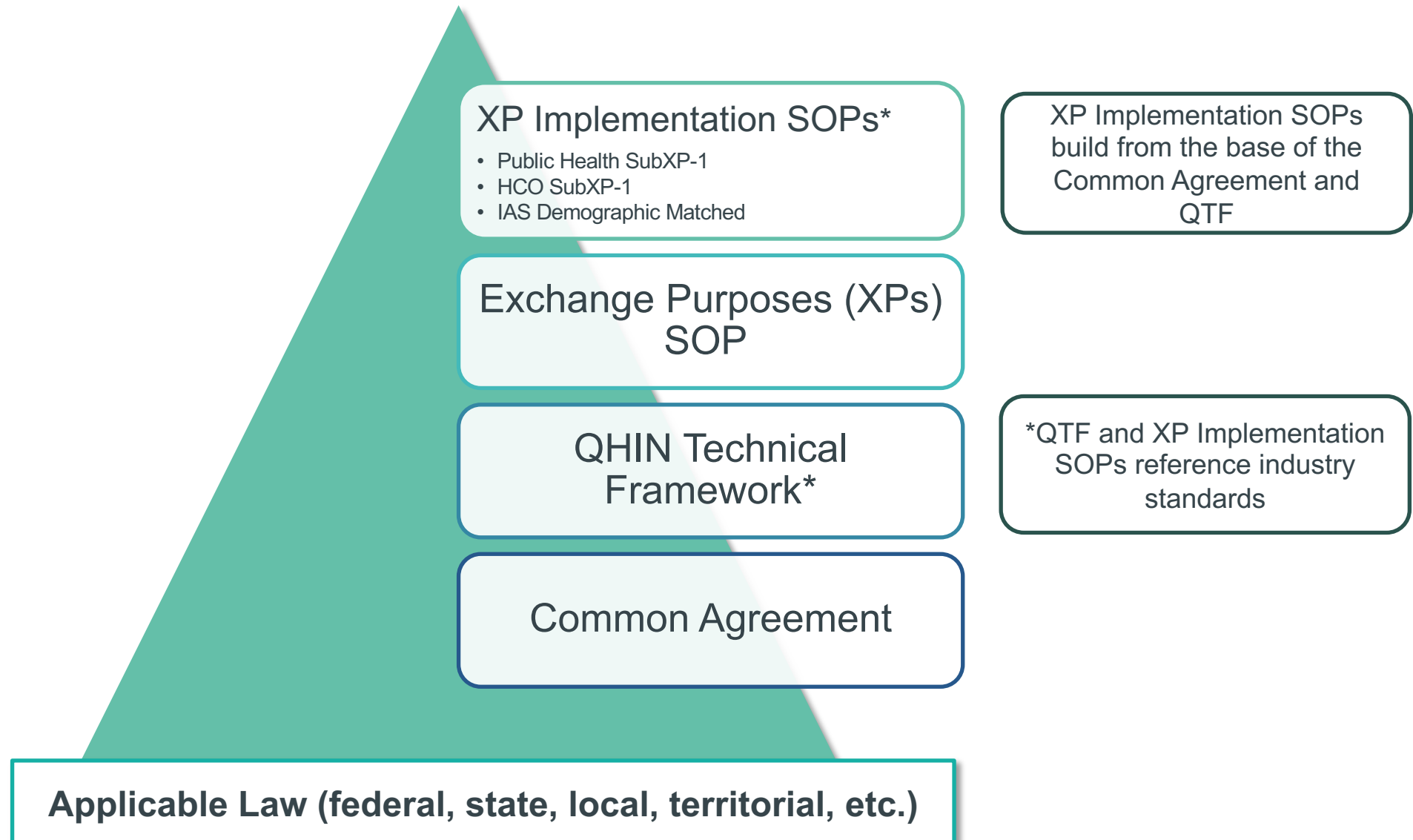
The Common Agreement version 2 will include enhancements and updates to require support of HL7 FHIR® based transactions.

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

Foundations of TEFCA Policies and Technical Approaches



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The RCE 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

Key Concepts that have Evolved: Version 1.1 to Version 2.0



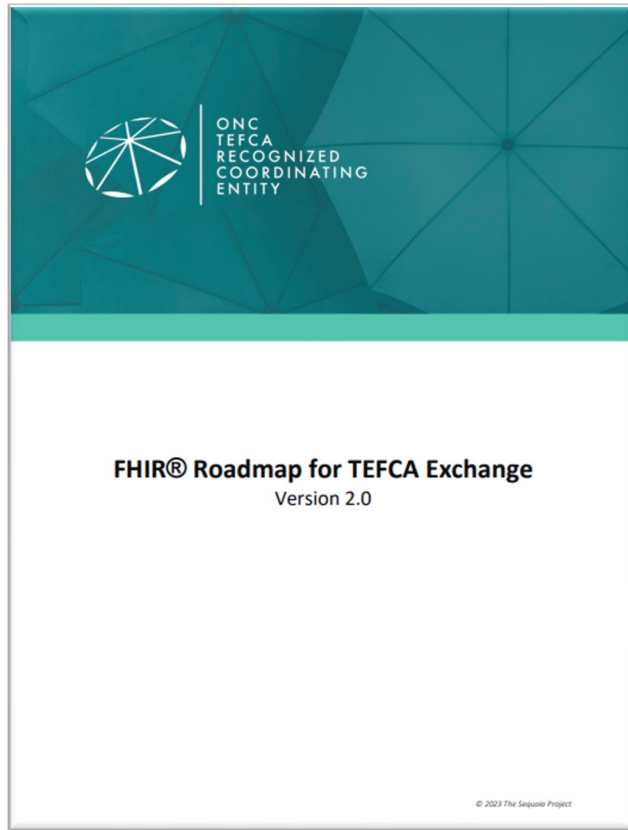
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Common Agreement and QTF Version 1.1	Proposed Common Agreement and QTF Version 2.0
Fundamental requirements and components of TEFCA mostly included within Common Agreement and QTF Version 1.1	More details moved to SOPs
Model Participant/Subparticipant 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

Support of FHIR and Updated Roadmap



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[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.

Recordings of Informational Webinars Available



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- **Webinar 1: January 23rd**
 - » Overview of goals, key changes, timeline, and comment process
- **Webinar 2: January 30th**
 - » 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**
 - » Deep dive on Exchange Purposes (XPs) SOP, XP Implementation SOPs, and Individual Access Services (IAS) Provider Requirements SOP



Recordings posted to: [Opportunities for Community Engagement - ONC TEFCA RCE \(sequoiaproject.org\)](https://sequoiaproject.org)



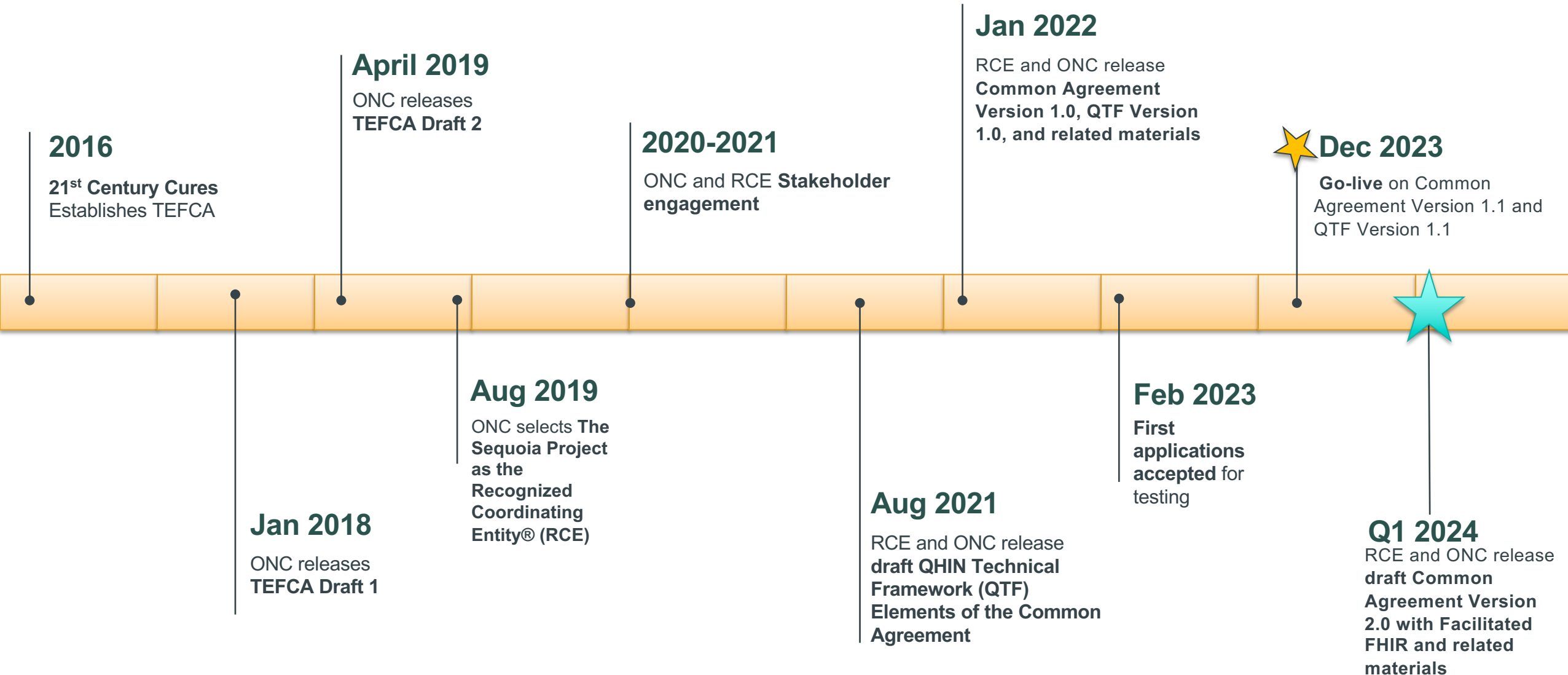
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Timeline and Feedback

TEFCA Evolution



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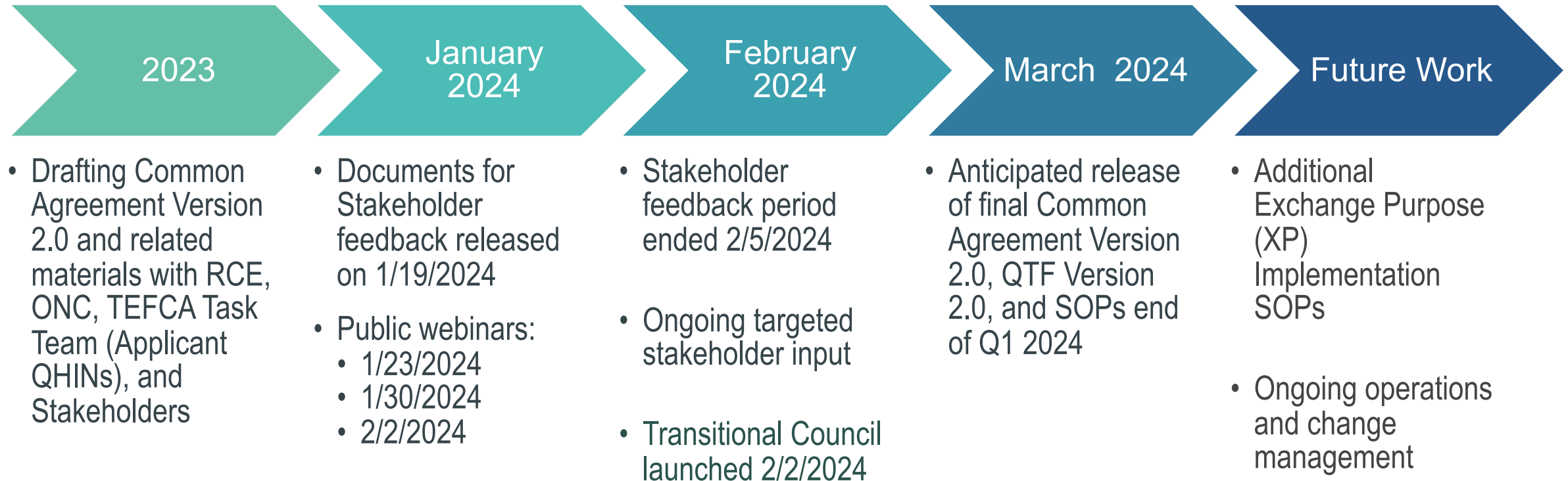
- **Input received through:**
 - » Web-based form
 - » RCE email
 - » Webinars
 - » Targeted stakeholder engagement calls



Common Agreement and QTF Version 2.0 Evolution



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Educational Resources and Upcoming Events



Frequently Asked Questions

The 21st Century Cures Act, signed by President Obama in 2016, calls on the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to “develop or support a trusted exchange framework, including a common agreement among health information networks nationally.” The Sequoia Project serves as the ONC TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity[®] (RCESM) under a contract with ONC.

The overall goal for the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common AgreementSM (TEFCASM) is to establish a universal floor for interoperability across the country. The Common Agreement will establish the infrastructure model and governing approach for users in different networks to securely share information with each other—all under commonly agreed-to expectations and rules and regardless of which network they happen to be in.

These Frequently Asked Questions address common stakeholder questions and will be updated regularly. You may submit a question to be considered for addition to this list by emailing rce@sequoiaproject.org.

The Common Agreement and related resources, including a User’s Guide, are posted to the [RCE website](#). All capitalized terms below are specifically defined in the Common Agreement.

Section 1: Overall Process and Timeline

What is the purpose of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA)?



What is the role of the ONC TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE)?



<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/rce/faqs/>



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.





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 at the right time.

What is TEFCA?





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 a multitude of use cases and driving innovation.

TEFCA provides an efficient vehicle to send, receive, and query for standardized electronic health information from a broad array of participants across the nation.





TEFCA AND FHIR

HL7 FHIR is the latest addition to TEFCA Exchange

The draft Common Agreement (CA) v2.0 and draft Qualified Health Information Network™ (QHIN™) 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 RCE™ 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.



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/>

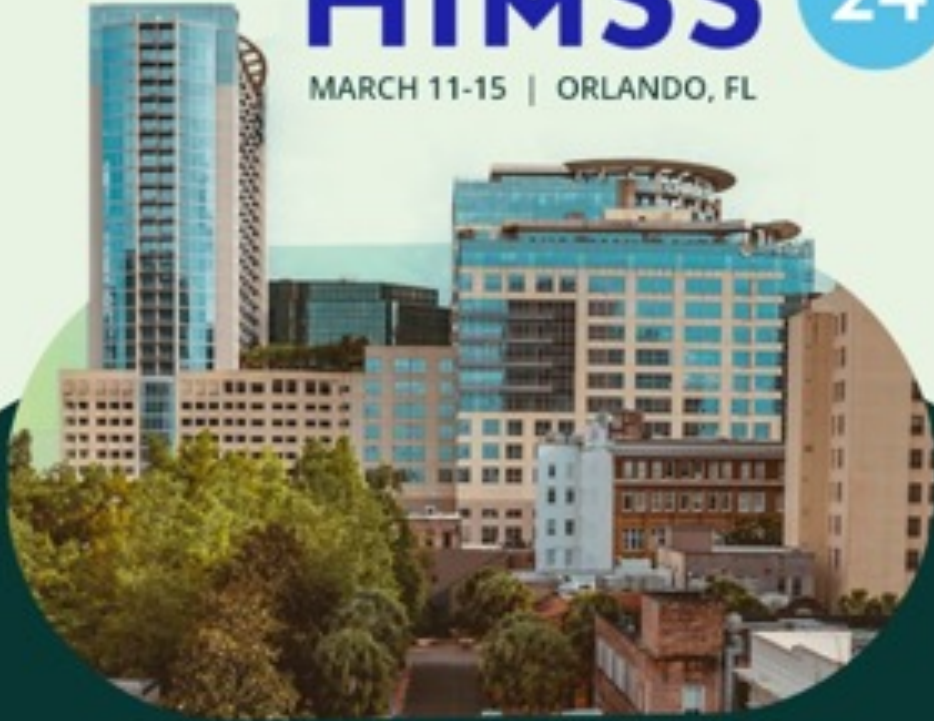
Upcoming Events:

- **March 13, 1-3pm ET: In-person Office Hours at HIMSS**
- **March 19, noon-1pm ET: Monthly Informational Call**
- **April 16, noon-1pm ET: Monthly Information Call**

Join the RCE at

HIMSS[®] 24

MARCH 11-15 | ORLANDO, FL



TEFCA is Live and coming to HIMSS24!

Join the ONC and RCE teams for presentations and panels throughout HIMSS. Then join us for informal discussions at our office hours, where our policy and technical experts will be on hands to answer your questions and discuss all things TEFCA.

March 11

- Keynote: Interoperability Evolution – Where Are We and How Did We Get Here?
- Navigating the Shifting Landscape of Interoperability

March 12

- TEFCA Goes Live: What it Means for Security
- Advancing Electronic Case Reporting (eCR) using Network Interoperability through TEFCA
- The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) - Common Agreement Update from the RCE

March 13

- Overview: ONC's HTI-1 Final Rule
- TEFCA Office Hours

March 14

- TEFCA/FHIR: Roadmap & Common Agreement Version 2.0



Questions & Answers

For more information:
rce.sequoiaproject.org