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July 15, 2025

# RCE™ Monthly Information Call

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# Today's Agenda



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- Welcome
- ASTP Remarks
- TEFCA Exchange Basics
- Governing Council Announcement
- QTF Version 2.1 Review for Public Feedback
- QTF Questions & Answers
- Educational Resources & Open Questions & Answers





**26+**  
**MILLION**  
Documents  
Shared

THE NUMBERS ARE IN

## TEFCA Exchange is Ramping Up!

There are 8,958 organizations live on TEFCA (QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants).

More than 26 **million documents shared** since go-live in December 2023.

# Meet the Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs)



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*eClinicalWorks*

eHealth Exchange™

**Epic**  
**Nexus**



**KONZA**  
NATIONAL NETWORK

**m | MedAllies**



Candidate QHINs



**ORACLE** Health  
Information Network, Inc.™

Learn More: <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/designated-qhins/>



**ASTP**

Assistant Secretary  
for Technology Policy

**Steve Posnack, MS, MHS**

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy

Principal Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology



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# TEFCA Exchange Basics

# TEFCA Components



**Framework  
Agreements**



**Standard  
Operating  
Procedures**



**Technical  
Requirements**



**RCE  
Directory**

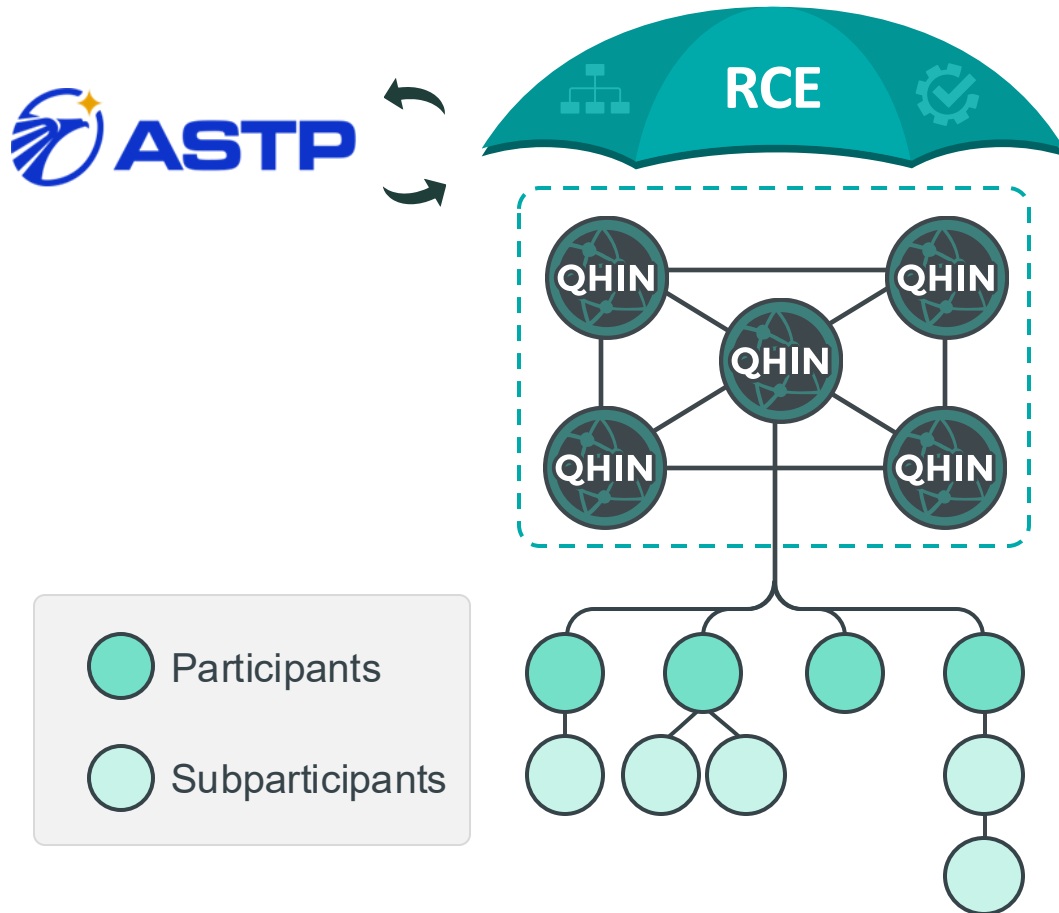


**Oversight &  
Compliance**



**Governance**

# Exchange Under TEFCFA



**ASTP** defines overall policy and certain governance requirements

**RCE** provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs

**QHINs** connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability

**Each QHIN** connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants

**Participants and Subparticipants** connect to each other through TEFCFA Exchange

- Participants contract directly with a QHIN and may choose to also provide connectivity to others (Subparticipants), creating an expanded network of networks
- Participants and Subparticipants sign the same Terms of Participation and can generally participate in TEFCFA Exchange in the same manner



# Individual Access Services (IAS)



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## What is IAS?

IAS means the services provided to an Individual by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant through a direct contractual relationship. The IAS Provider supports an Individual's ability to use TEFCA Exchange to access, inspect, obtain, or transmit a copy of the Individual's own information.

In general, entities are required to Respond to Queries for information for IAS.

## What is an IAS Provider?

Any QHIN, Participant, and Subparticipant that chooses to offer Individual Access Services is an IAS Provider.

### Link to relevant SOPS

- [IAS Provider Requirements SOP](#)
- [Exchange Purposes \(XP\) Implementation SOP: Individual Access Services \(IAS\)](#)
- [IAS Credential Service Provider \(CSP\) Approval Organizations](#)

**Individuals will be able to access their own information from TEFCA connected entities using an IAS Provider, such as an app.**



# Vignette: Individual Access Services Exchange Purpose



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## Use Case: Individual seeks her records from all her providers

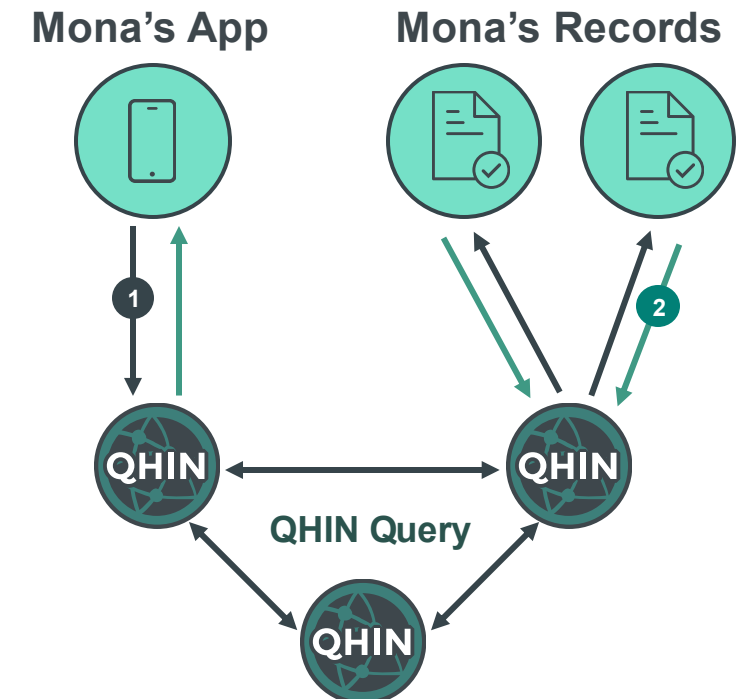
*Mona is using a health app to manage her personal health information. Mona verifies her identity in the app and requests all her health records. The consumer app leverages TEFCA to find and retrieve Mona's records from TEFCA connected entities.*

**Initiating Action:** Mona requests her health information through her health app which passes along the request to its TEFCA connector

### QHIN Query:

- The QHIN associated with the app's TEFCA connector queries other QHINs
- The other QHINs Query their TEFCA connected entities for Mona's records
- TEFCA connected entities with relevant records respond to the app's QHIN
- The QHINs with Mona's matched records pass it to the initiating QHIN, which shares them with the app's TEFCA connector

**Delivery:** The initiating QHIN sends the information to Mona's digital consumer app, allowing Mona to access her personal health information.

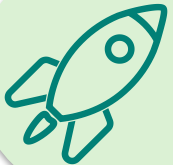




## Want the basics?

Check out the TEFCA Guide for easy-to-digest information on TEFCA

[https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TEFCA-Guide-September-2024\\_508.pdf](https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/TEFCA-Guide-September-2024_508.pdf)



## Looking for the nitty gritty?

The Framework Agreements and SOPs are here!

<https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/tefca-and-rce-resources/>



## Love the introductory content?

Tell us in the GoToWebinar survey – we want your feedback!



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# TEFCA Governing Council

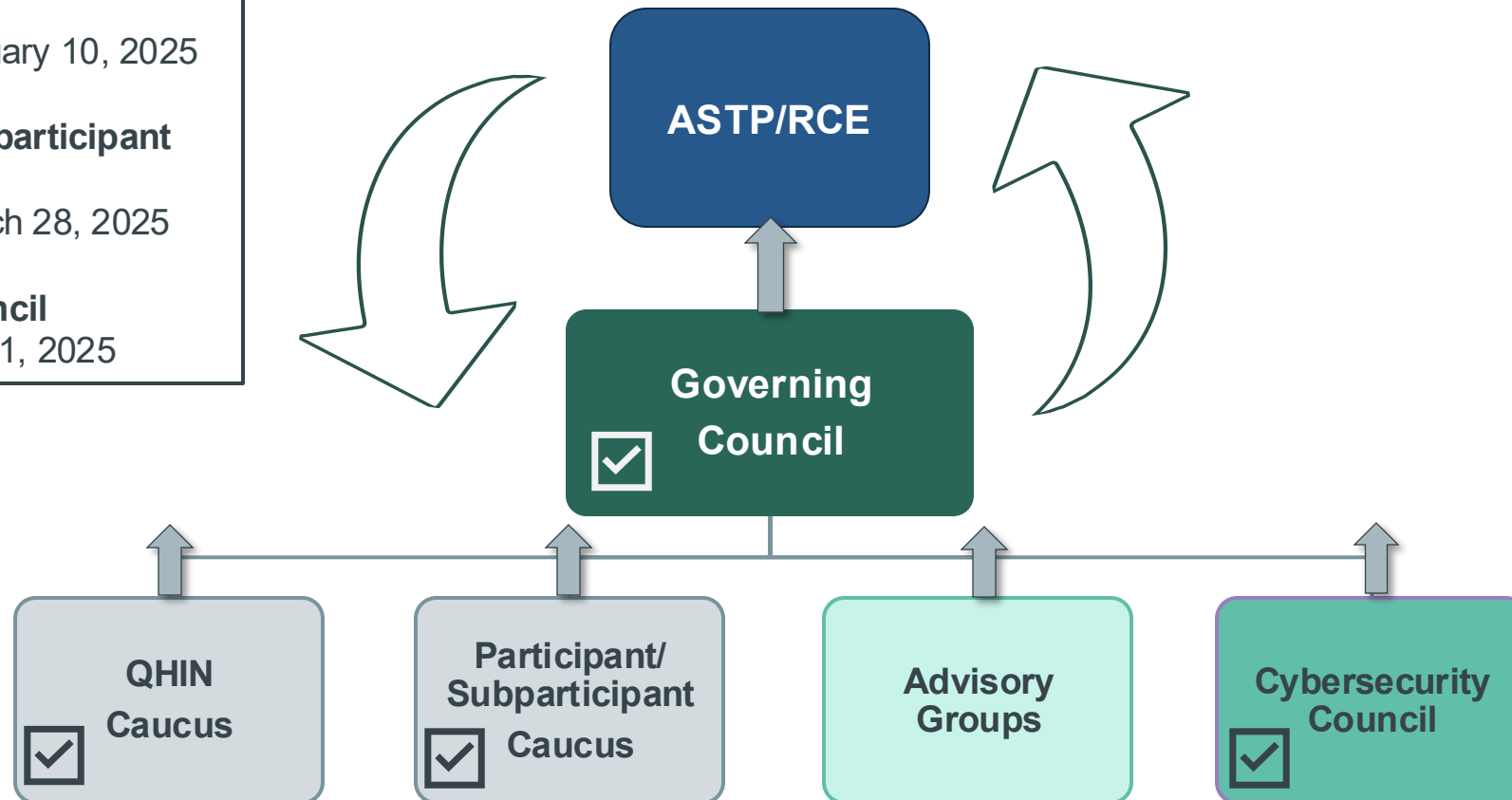
# Governance Bodies Formed and Active



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## Establishment Dates

- ☒ **QHIN Caucus**  
Established January 10, 2025
- ☒ **Participant/Subparticipant Caucus**  
Established March 28, 2025
- ☒ **Governing Council**  
Established July 1, 2025



# Governing Council Responsibilities



- i. Serving as a resource to the RCE and a forum for orderly and civil discussion of any issues affecting TEFCA Exchange or other issues that may arise under the Framework Agreements;
- ii. Supporting the RCE in its work to monitor TEFCA Exchange and other activities under the Framework Agreements, and serving as a resource to the RCE to identify possible corrective actions for conditions that disrupt exchange activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

a) Provide advice on issues related to the Onboarding of QHINs;

b) Assist in evaluating suspected or alleged non-compliance with requirements in the Framework Agreements, the SOPs, and the QTF;

c) Provide input regarding whether to suspend or terminate a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipants participation in TEFCA Exchange;

d) Provide advice regarding issues before they become Disputes and are escalated to the formal Dispute Resolution Process; and

e) Evaluate possible and actual TEFCA Security Incidents, other Threat Conditions, and information and/or recommendations from the Cybersecurity Council.



- iii. Reviewing proposed amendments to the Framework Agreements, the QTF, and SOPs and providing feedback to the RCE on the proposed changes;
- iv. Participating in the development of new SOPs and providing feedback to the RCE on the proposed changes before publication;
- v. Assisting the RCE with the Dispute Resolution Process, as set forth in the Common Agreement and the Dispute Resolution SOP;
- vi. Informing the RCE on development and updating of the strategic roadmap for TEFCA Exchange; and
- vii. Advocating for the value of the exchange activities under the Common Agreement and promoting their success.

# Governing Council Members



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Name	Organization	Title	Term
<b>Alya Sulaiman, JD, CIPP/US</b>	Datavant	Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer & SVP of Regulatory Affairs	1
<b>Amy Bagge-Smith, JD</b>	Zus Health	General Counsel, Chief Privacy Officer & VP of Regulatory Affairs	2
<b>Deven McGraw, JD, MPH, LLM</b>	Citizen Health	Chief Regulatory & Chief Privacy Officer	2
<b>Gary Parker, JD, MBA</b>	Alabama Medicaid (Alabama One Health Record)	Agency Chief Data Officer & HIE Director	1
<b>Jay Nakashima</b>	eHealth Exchange	President	2
<b>John Blair III, MD</b>	MedAllies	CEO	1
<b>John Helvey</b>	SacValley MedShare	Chief Executive Officer	2
<b>Justin McMartin</b>	Surescripts Health Information Network	Interoperability Affairs Manager	2
<b>Kara Justi, MBA</b>	Cleveland Clinic	Value Stream Director, Population, Community Care & Integrated Health Services	1
<b>Laura McCrary, Ed.D</b>	Konza	President and CEO	2
<b>Matthew Eisenberg MD, FAAP</b>	Stanford Health Care	Associate Chief Medical Information Officer	2
<b>Melissa Massardo</b>	Athenahealth	Product Market Strategy, Senior Manager	2
<b>Mike Warner</b>	Greenway Health	Director of Product Management	1
<b>Paul Wilder</b>	CommonWell Health Alliance	Executive Director	1
<b>Peter Schoch, MD</b>	Kno2	Chief Health Officer	2
<b>Rob Klootwyk</b>	Epic Nexus	Director, Interoperability	1
<b>Steven Lane, MD</b>	Health Gorilla	Chief Medical Officer	1
<b>Tushar Malhotra</b>	eClinical Works	Director, Interoperability Strategy and Business Development	2





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# QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Draft Version 2.1 Review

# What is the QHIN Technical Framework?



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The Qualified Health Information Network® (QHIN™) Technical Framework (QTF) describes the functional and technical requirements that a Health Information Network (HIN) must fulfill to serve as a QHIN under the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement™ (TEFCA™)

The QTF specifies the technical underpinnings for TEFCA Exchange, QHIN technical capabilities and services, and certain other responsibilities, some of which extend to Participants and Subparticipants

The Common Agreement requires compliance with the QTF



# Elements of the QHIN Technical Framework



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- The QTF focuses technical and functional requirements on three information exchange modalities for QHINs:
  - QHIN Query
  - QHIN Message Delivery
  - Facilitated FHIR
- Outlines the functions, specifying constraints, standards, and implementation approaches for the Connectivity Services QHINs are responsible for providing
- Includes requirements for Participants and Subparticipants to engage in exchange using emerging standards, such as FHIR API-based exchange



# QHIN Technical Framework Version History



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**2022**

## **Version 1.0**

- Enables organizations seeking to become QHINs to leverage existing, deployed technical infrastructure (i.e., services based on IHE profiles) to support QHIN-to-QHIN exchange.

**2023**

## **Version 1.1**

- Updated requirements for transaction encryption using TLS.
- Updated Exchange Purposes codes
- Clarified uses of XCDR, XCA query and XCA retrieve by QHINs
- Changed ATNA requirements to content only
- Set requirement for Participants/Subparticipants to use TEFCA certs only for TEFCA exchange
- Removed testing and reporting requirements

**2024**

## **Version 2.0**

- Added base requirements for FHIR and a reference to the Facilitated FHIR SOP
- Updated terms to match CA V2.0
- Updated requirements for USCDI, added V3 requirement for 2026
- Restored testing and reporting requirements

**2025**

## **DRAFT Version 2.1**

- Proposed changes to accommodate directed queries
- New proposed QHIN reporting requirements to break down monthly exchange volumes by Exchange Purpose (XP)



## Why These Changes?

- Support directed queries for any Exchange Purpose (XP), including:
  - Government Benefits Determination
  - Health Care Operations
  - Payment
- Improve transparency and reporting on exchange volumes
- Gather broad stakeholder feedback to ensure TEFCA Exchange remains responsive to community needs



## What Will This Enable?

- Queries to be sent to specific Participants or Subparticipants to limit extraneous responses
- Enhanced QHIN reporting by requiring monthly exchange volumes to be broken down by XP
- Stronger, more responsive TEFCA Exchange Framework

*Throughout this presentation deck, Changes in QTF Version 2.1 are shown in gold*

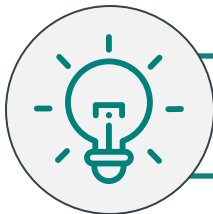


## Alternate Flow 1: Querying Specific Organization(s)

**Node:** a technical system controlled directly or indirectly by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that is listed in the RCE Directory Service

The following flow may be used when the Initiating Node only wants to Query one or more specific organizations:

- 1) The Initiating Node sends a Query Solicitation, through any intermediary Subparticipants or Participant as applicable, to the Initiating QHIN to find patient matches by demographics from specific organizations where a patient may have health care data.
  - a. The Query Solicitation includes all available patient demographics as well as the HomeCommunityID(s) and/or other information about the **specified** Responding Node(s) (e.g., organization name, city, and state). See *IHE ITI TF-1: 27 XCPD Integration Profile* and *IHE ITI TF-2b: 3.55*.
- 2) The Initiating QHIN queries its QHIN Directory to identify the appropriate Responding QHIN for each Responding Node provided by the Initiating Node.



Throughout QTFv2.1, instances of the word “targeted” were replaced.





## Alternate Flow 1: Querying Specific Organization(s) Continued

3. For each Responding Node provided by the Initiating Node, the Initiating QHIN creates an IHE Cross Gateway Patient Discovery [ITI-55] Request based on the Query Solicitation and sends it via the Initiating Gateway to the Responding Gateway of the Responding QHIN for the Responding Node. See *IHE ITI TF-2b: 3.55*.
  - a. The ITI-55 request indicates which Responding Node is requested to respond by populating the homeCommunityId of the requested community in the id element within the Organization associated with the device of the receiver.
  - b. The Initiating QHIN creates an audit log entry.



The changes to Alternate Flow 1 highlight the location in the transaction to identify that this is a Directed Query.



## QTF-19

Following the IHE XUA requirements, the SAML assertion MUST include:

- a. User information including name, UserID, Subject-Role, and, if appropriate, National Provider Identifier (NPI),
- b. Organization name, and HomeCommunityID of the Query or Initiating Node initiating the transaction, and
- c. RCE Directory Service entry Organization Resource id at the most granular level (e.g., lowest level Subparticipant or child) **in the Subject Organization ID Attribute**
- d. Patient Identifier including Assigning Authority, if known.



This further specifies the requirements for the SAML assertion to eliminate ambiguity.





- QTF-38** Initiating QHINs MAY direct a Query to a specific Responding Node in the XCPD Request by including the Responding Node's HomeCommunityID in the receiver/device/asAgent/representedOrganization/id/@root attribute
- QTF-39** If the receiver/device/asAgent/representedOrganization/id/@root attribute is populated with an HomeCommunityId, the Responding QHIN SHOULD only respond with information from the Responding Node corresponding to that HomeCommunityId
- QTF-40** If the HomeCommunityId is not one that is served by the Responding Gateway, then it SHOULD return an error as specified in Case 5 of ITI TF-2b section 3.55.4.2.3

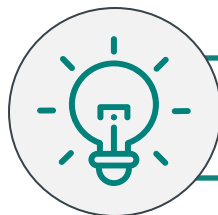


These new constraints give specific requirements for Directed Query



## QTF-135

- a. Raw count of successful (i.e., completed without error) QHIN-to-QHIN transactions, per Responding QHIN, within the reporting period for each of:
  - i. Patient Discovery,
  - ii. Document Query,
  - iii. Document Retrieve, and
  - iv. Message Delivery.
- b. Raw count of errors in QHIN-to-QHIN transactions, per Responding QHIN per IHE metadata error code received within the reporting period.
- c. Raw count of connectivity errors per Responding QHIN received within the reporting period.
- d. Average Response time for each QHIN-to-QHIN transaction, per Responding QHIN transacted with during the reporting period. Each data point must include the message type, average Response time, and Responding QHIN.
- e. Total number of documents retrieved via QHIN Query within the reporting period.
- f. Total number of documents successfully delivered via Message Delivery within the reporting period.
- g. Total number of documents successfully exchanged, separated by Exchange Purpose, for each of Document Retrieve and Message Delivery.



Adds accounting of documents by Exchange Purpose (XP) to allow for enhanced reporting

# Your Feedback is Requested!



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- The Draft QTF Version 2.1 was prepared by the RCE with input from ASTP and the QHIN Caucus
- Following the stakeholder feedback period, the RCE will consolidate and share feedback with the TEFCA Governance Bodies to finalize the amendment in coordination with ASTP
- **Feedback will be accepted until July 28 at 11:59pm ET**



**Link to feedback form:** <https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/draft-qtf-version-2-1-feedback/>



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# Questions & Answers on Draft QTF Version 2.1




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# Educational Resources






## Resources

- TEFCA Documents 
- QHIN Application, Onboarding, and Designation Process
- Benefits of Participation
- CSP Approval Organizations
- Frequently Asked Questions
- QHIN Cybersecurity Certification



### Core Requirements

-  Common Agreement for Nationwide Health Information Interoperability Version 2.1 (QHINs)
-  Types of Entities that can be a Participant or Subparticipant in TEFCA SOP
-  Terms of Participation (Participant/Subparticipant)










### Technical Requirements

-  QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Version 2.0
-  Technical Trust Requirements
-  Delegation of Authority SOP
-  Facilitated FHIR Implementation SOP
-  RCE Directory Service Requirements Policy SOP
-  RCE Directory Service Implementation Guide 1.2.0
-  QHIN Cybersecurity Certification



### Exchange Purposes (XP) Implementation SOPs

-  Exchange Purposes (XP) Version 4.0
-  IAS XP Credential Service Provider (CSP) Approval Organizations List
-  XP Implementation: Individual Access Services (IAS)
-  XP Implementation: Treatment
-  XP Implementation: Public Health
-  XP Implementation: Health Care Operations
-  XP Vetting Process







### Privacy and Security SOPs

-  IAS Provider Requirements
-  QHIN Cybersecurity Certification
-  QHIN Cybersecurity Coverage
-  QHIN Security Requirements for the Protection of TEFCA Information Version 2.0
-  TEFCA Security Incident Reporting
-  QHIN, Participant, and Subparticipant Additional Security Requirements SOP



### Governance SOPs

-  Conflicts of Interest
-  Dispute Resolution
-  Expectations for Cooperation
-  TEFCA Governance














# TEFCA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



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## Fact Sheets

-  FHIR Roadmap for TEFCA Exchange Version 2.0
-  TEFCA Cross Reference Resource
-  TEFCA Glossary
-  TEFCA Guide
-  Questions to ask your QHIN or other TEFCA connectors
-  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

These Frequently Asked Questions address common questions and will be updated regularly:

- **What is TEFCA?**
- **How Does TEFCA Work?**
- **How Do I Participate in TEFCA Exchange?**
- **How is TEFCA Governed?**
- **How are QHINs Designated?**

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

### **Additional TEFCA Resources from ASTP:**

<https://www.healthit.gov/topic/interoperability/policy/trusted-exchange-framework-and-common-agreement-tefca>

# 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/tefca-and-rce-resources/>

Additional Resources:

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

All Events Registration and Recordings:

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

**Next RCE Monthly  
Information Call**

August 19 | 12:00-1:00pm ET





# Questions & Answers

For more information:  
[rce.sequoiaproject.org](http://rce.sequoiaproject.org)