

# TEFCA Glossary

Effective Date: January, 16, 2026

## PURPOSE

This Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement™ (TEFCA™) Glossary is intended to serve as an in-depth compilation of terms and their definitions as referenced in the Framework Agreements, Qualified Health Information Network® (QHIN™) Technical Framework (QTF), and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The TEFCA Glossary is the authoritative source for defined terms used across Framework documents, and supports consistent understanding of those terms.

Definitions in this Glossary that originate in the Common Agreement or the QTF are identified as such. All other definitions originate in SOPs.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between a definition set forth in this Glossary and a definition contained in the QTF or any SOP, the definition set forth in this Glossary shall control.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between a definition set forth in this Glossary and a definition contained in the Common Agreement or the Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP), the definitions set forth in the Common Agreement or the Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation shall control.

All references to Signatory in a definition below or in the Framework Agreements may refer to a QHIN, or Upstream QPS as applicable.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### A

**Access Consent Policy (ACP):** policies that may influence access control decisions and which can be referenced in Queries. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Actor:** a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Affiliated With:** an individual is affiliated with a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant if such individual is an owner, director, officer, employee, contractor, or agent of such QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant. *Source: SOPs*

**Applicable Law:** all federal, State, local, or tribal laws and regulations then in effect and applicable to the subject matter herein. For the avoidance of doubt, federal agencies are only subject to federal law. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Applicant or Applicant QHIN:** means any organization that has submitted an intent to apply to be a QHIN to the Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE®), and that intent to apply has been accepted by the RCE, as specified in this SOP. The organization will no longer be deemed an Applicant if it withdraws that intent to apply, it does not submit a completed application within ninety (90) days, or if its intent to apply is otherwise terminated by the RCE. Applicant also includes those organizations that have submitted a QHIN Application to the RCE for completeness review as set forth in this SOP, and that application has not been withdrawn or otherwise terminated. *Source: SOPs*

**Assigning Authority:** The organization that issues a patient identifier. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

## B

**Breach of Unencrypted Individually Identifiable Information:** the acquisition, access, or Disclosure of unencrypted Individually Identifiable Information maintained by an IAS Provider that compromises the security or privacy of the unencrypted Individually Identifiable Information. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Business Associate Agreement (BAA):** a contract, agreement, or other arrangement that satisfies the implementation specifications described within 45 CFR § 164.314(a) and 164.504(e), as applicable. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Business Associate:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 160.103. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## C

**Candidate or Candidate QHIN:** means any organization that has been notified by the RCE that its QHIN Application has been accepted to continue to the testing and project plan phase as set forth in this SOP. *Source: SOPs*

**Caucus Escalation Date:** the date by which a Sponsoring QHIN must notify the RCE that it elects to escalate an Entrant to the QHIN Caucus in order for the Entrant to be reviewed at the QHIN Caucus's next meeting. *Source: SOPs*

**Common Agreement (CA) Effective Date:** if (i) Signatory was Designated as a QHIN prior to the Implementation Date, then the Implementation Date; or (ii) if Signatory was Designated as a QHIN after the Implementation Date, then the date that the RCE executes the Common Agreement to which Signatory is a Party. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Common Agreement:** unless otherwise expressly indicated, the Common Agreement for Nationwide Health Information Interoperability, the QHIN Technical Framework (QTF), all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and all other attachments, exhibits, and artifacts incorporated therein by reference. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Confidential Information (CI) Discloser:** a person or entity that discloses Confidential Information. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Confidential Information (CI) Recipient:** a person or entity that receives Confidential Information. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Confidential Information:** any information that is designated as Confidential Information by a CI Discloser, or that a reasonable person would understand to be of a confidential nature, and is disclosed to a CI Recipient pursuant to or in connection with a Framework Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, “Confidential Information” does not include electronic protected health information (ePHI), as defined in a Framework Agreement, that is subject to a Business Associate Agreement or other provisions of a Framework Agreement. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

Notwithstanding any label to the contrary, “Confidential Information” does not include any information that: (i) is or becomes known publicly through no fault of the CI Recipient; or (ii) is learned by the CI Recipient from a third party that the CI Recipient reasonably believes is entitled to disclose it without restriction; or (iii) is already known to the CI Recipient before receipt from the CI Discloser, as shown by the CI Recipient’s written records; or (iv) is independently developed by the CI Recipient without the use of or reference to the CI Discloser’s Confidential Information, as shown by the CI Recipient’s written records, and was not subject to confidentiality restrictions prior to receipt of such information from the CI Discloser. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Connectivity Services:** the technical services provided by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant to its Participants and Subparticipants that facilitate TEFCA Exchange and are consistent with the requirements of the then-applicable QHIN Technical Framework. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Contract:** the Contract by and between The Sequoia Project and HHS, or, if applicable, a successor agreement between The Sequoia Project and HHS or a successor agreement between a different RCE and HHS. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Covered Entity:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 160.103. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Cybersecurity Council:** the council established by the RCE to enhance cybersecurity commensurate with the risks in TEFCA Exchange, as more fully set forth in an SOP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

## D

**Delegate:** a First Tier Delegate or Downstream Delegate. *Source: SOPs*

**Delegated Request:** a TEFCA Exchange Request initiated by a Delegate working, directly or indirectly, for a Principal. *Source: SOPs*

**Delegation Notice:** the notice provided by a Participant or Subparticipant to its QHIN that the Participant or Subparticipant wants to authorize a Delegate to initiate Delegated Requests on behalf of the Participant or Subparticipant. *Source: SOPs*

**Delegation Revocation:** the notice provided by a Participant or Subparticipant to its QHIN that the Participant or Subparticipant wants to remove a Delegate's authorization to initiate Delegated Requests on behalf of the Participant or Subparticipant. *Source: SOPs*

**Designated Network Governance Body:** a representative and participatory group or groups that approve the processes for fulfilling the Governance Functions and participate in such Governance Functions for Signatory's Designated Network. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Designated Network Services:** the Connectivity Services or Governance Services. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Designated Network:** the Health Information Network that Signatory uses to offer and provide the Designated Network Services. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Terms of Participation*

**Designation (including its correlative meanings "Designate," "Designated," and "Designating"):** the RCE's written confirmation to ONC and Signatory that Signatory has satisfied all the requirements of the Common Agreement, the QHIN Technical Framework, all applicable SOPs, and is now a QHIN. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Directory Entry(ies):** listing of each Node controlled by a QHIN, Participant or Subparticipant, which includes the endpoint resource for such Node(s) and any other organizational or technical information required by the QTF or an applicable SOP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Disclosure (including its correlative meanings "Disclose," "Disclosed," and "Disclosing"):** the release, transfer, provision of access to, or divulging in any manner of TEFCA Information (TI) outside the entity holding the information. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Discover (including its correlative meanings “Discovery” and “Discovering”):** the first day on which something is known to the QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant, or by exercising reasonable diligence would have been known, to the QHIN, Participant or Subparticipant. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Discriminatory Manner:** any act or omission that is inconsistently taken or not taken with respect to any similarly situated QHIN, Participant, Subparticipant, Individual, or group of them, whether it is a competitor, or whether it is affiliated with or has a contractual relationship with any other entity, or in response to an event. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Dispute Resolution Process:** the non-binding Dispute resolution process set forth in an SOP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Dispute:** (i) a disagreement about any provision of the Common Agreement, including any SOP, the QTF, and all other attachments, exhibits, and artifacts incorporated by reference; or (ii) a concern or complaint about the actions, or any failure to act, of Signatory, the RCE, any other QHIN, or another QHIN’s Participant(s) or Subparticipant(s). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Downstream Delegate:** a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that (i) is not acting as a Principal when initiating or Responding to a transaction via TEFCA Exchange and (ii) has a direct written agreement with a First Tier Delegate or another Downstream Delegate authorizing the respective Downstream Delegate to initiate or Respond to transactions via TEFCA Exchange for or on behalf of a Principal. *Source: SOPs*

## E

**Electronic Case Reporting:** is the electronic exchange of case report information between QHINs/Participants/Subparticipants and Public Health Authorities. *Source: SOPs*

**Electronic Laboratory Reporting:** is the transmission of electronic laboratory reports between QHINs/Participants/Subparticipants and Public Health Authorities. *Source: SOPs*

**Electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI):** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 160.103. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Enterprise Master Patient Index (eMPI):** a system that coordinates patient identification across multiple systems by collecting, storing, and managing identifiers and patient-identifying demographic information from a source system. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Entrant:** a potential Principal that may initiate Queries directly through its own Initiating Node, a shared Initiating Node, or through a Delegated Request for a specific Vetted XP and which is submitted for consideration into the Entrant Review List. *Source: SOPs*

**Entrant Review List:** the list maintained by the RCE of Entrants submitted by Sponsoring QHINs. *Source: SOPs*

**Exchange Modality:** QHIN Query, QHIN Message Delivery, and/or Facilitated FHIR. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Exchange Purpose(s) or XP(s):** the reason, as authorized by a Framework Agreement, including the applicable SOP(s), for a transmission, Query, Use, Disclosure, or Response transacted through TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## F

**FHIR Adopters:** any QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that wishes to engage in TEFCA Exchange leveraging Facilitated FHIR, as described in the Facilitated FHIR Implementation SOP. *Source: SOPs*

**FHIR Endpoint:** has the meaning assigned to such term in the Health Level Seven International® (HL7®) Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®) Specification available at <https://hl7.org/fhir/r4/>, as such specification may be amended, modified or replaced. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**FHIR Push:** a PUT or POST operation that submits data to a QHIN, Participant, Subparticipant, or other Node. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**FHIR Query:** an operation that Queries information from a Responding Node. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**First Tier Delegate:** a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that (i) is not acting as a Principal when initiating or Responding to a transaction via TEFCA Exchange and (ii) has a direct written agreement with a Principal authorizing the First Tier Delegate to initiate or Respond to transactions via TEFCA Exchange 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. *Source: SOPs*

**Framework Agreement(s):** with respect to QHINs, the Common Agreement; and with respect to a Participant or Subparticipant, the Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*



**FTC Rule:** the Health Breach Notification Rule promulgated by the Federal Trade Commission set forth at 16 CFR § Part 318. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## G

**Governance Body(ies):** the Governing Council, the QHIN Caucus, and/or the Participant/Subparticipant Caucus. *Source: SOPs*

**Governance Functions:** the functions, activities, and responsibilities of the Designated Network Governance Body as set forth in an applicable SOP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Governance Services:** the governance functions described in applicable SOP(s), which are performed by a QHIN's Designated Network Governance Body for its Participants and Subparticipants to facilitate TEFCA Exchange in compliance with the then-applicable requirements of the Framework Agreements. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Governing Council:** the permanent governing body for activities conducted under the Framework Agreements, as more fully described in the applicable SOP(s). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Government Benefits Determination (GBD):** a determination made by any agency, instrumentality, or other unit of the federal, State, local, or tribal government as to whether an Individual qualifies for government benefits for any purpose other than health care (e.g., Social Security disability benefits) to the extent permitted by Applicable Law. Disclosure of TI for this purpose may require an authorization that complies with Applicable Law. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Government Health Care Entity:** any agency, instrumentality, or other unit of the federal, State, local, or tribal government to the extent that it provides health care services (e.g., treatment) to Individuals but only to the extent that it is not acting as a Covered Entity. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## H

**HCO Care Coordination/Case Management (T-HCO-CC):** means data collection for a Health Plan to determine how to deliver care for an Individual by performing one or more actions in order to organize the provision and case management of an Individual's health care, including monitoring an Individual's goals, needs, and preferences; acting as the communication link between two or more parties (e.g., providers and/or case



management companies) concerned with an Individual's health and wellness; organizing and facilitating care activities and promoting self-management by advocating for, empowering, informing, and educating a patient; and ensuring safe, appropriate, nonduplicative, and effective integrated care. *Source: SOPs*

**HCO HEDIS Reporting (T-HCO-HED):** means data collection to support the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) program's data reporting requirements, including audit, as required by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). *Source: SOPs*

**HCO Patient Safety (T-HCO-PTSAFETY):** means data collection for the following:

- (1) Efforts to improve patient safety and the quality of health care delivery;
- (2) The collection and analysis of patient safety work product;
- (3) The development and dissemination of information with respect to improving patient safety, such as recommendations, protocols, or information regarding best practices;
- (4) The utilization of patient safety work product for the purposes of encouraging a culture of safety and of providing feedback and assistance to effectively minimize patient risk;
- (5) The maintenance of procedures to preserve confidentiality with respect to patient safety work product;
- (6) The provision of appropriate security measures with respect to patient safety work product;
- (7) The utilization of qualified staff; and
- (8) Activities related to the operation of a patient safety evaluation system and to the provision of feedback to participants in a patient safety evaluation system. *Source: SOPs*

**HCO Performance Review (T-HCO-PERF):** means data collection to support reviewing the competence or qualifications of health care professionals, evaluating practitioner and provider performance, or evaluating health plan performance. *Source: SOPs*

**HCO Population-Based Activities (T-HCO-POP):** means data collection for population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs, protocol development, case management and care coordination, contacting of health care providers and patients with information about treatment alternatives. *Source: SOPs*

**HCO Quality Assessment and Improvement (T-HCO-QAI):** means data collection for quality assessment and improvement activities, including outcomes evaluation and development of clinical guidelines, provided that the obtaining of generalizable knowledge is not the primary purpose of any studies resulting from such activities. *Source: SOPs*

**Health Care Operations:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 164.501, except that this term shall apply to the applicable activities of a Health Care Provider regardless of whether the Health Care Provider is a Covered Entity. *Source: SOPs*

**Health Care Provider:** meets the definition of such term in either 45 CFR § 171.102 or in the HIPAA Rules at 45 CFR § 160.103. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Health Information Network (HIN):** has the meaning assigned to the term “Health Information Network or Health Information Exchange” in the information blocking regulations at 45 CFR § 171.102. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Health Plan:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 160.103. *Source: SOPs*

**Health Plan Parent:** the QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant of which the Health Plan(s) is a part. *Source: SOPs*

**HIPAA Privacy Rule:** the regulations set forth at 45 CFR § Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**HIPAA Rules:** the regulations set forth at 45 CFR § Parts 160, 162, and 164. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**HIPAA Security Rule:** the regulations set forth at 45 CFR § Part 160 and Part 164, Subpart C. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**HIPAA:** the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. Law 104-191, and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, Pub. Law 111-5. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**HomeCommunityID (HCID):** a globally unique identifier for a Node. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

## I

**Implementation Date:** the date sixty (60) calendar days after publication of version 2 of the Common Agreement in the Federal Register. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Individual Access Services (IAS):** the services provided to an Individual by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that has a direct contractual relationship with such Individual in which the QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant, as applicable, agrees to satisfy that Individual's ability to use TEFCA Exchange to access, inspect, obtain, or transmit a copy of that Individual's Required Information. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Individual Access Services Consent (IAS Consent):** an IAS Provider's own supplied form for obtaining express written consent from the Individual in connection with the IAS. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Individual Access Services Incident (IAS Incident):** a TEFCA Security Incident or a Breach of Unencrypted Individually Identifiable Information maintained by an IAS Provider. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Individual Access Services Provider (IAS Provider):** each QHIN, Participant, and Subparticipant that offers Individual Access Services (IAS). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Individual:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 171.202(a)(2). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Individually Identifiable Information:** information that identifies an Individual or with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe that the information could be used to identify an Individual. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Initiating Gateway:** a transaction gateway that supports outgoing Requests and Responses for QHIN Query (Patient Discovery, Document Query, Document Retrieve) and QHIN Message Delivery. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Initiating Node Only Attestation:** an attestation provided by a Participant or Subparticipant to its QHIN attesting that any information obtained or created by the Participant's or Subparticipant's Initiating Node that is or would be part of a Designated Record Set of a Principal is shared with another Responding Node that is identified in such attestation. For purposes of the Initiating Node Only Attestation, Designated Record Set has the meaning assigned to that term in 45 CFR § 164.501 but applies to a Principal regardless of whether the Principal is a Covered Entity. *Source: SOPs*

**Initiating Node:** a Node through which a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant initiates transactions for TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Initiating QHIN:** a QHIN that initiates a QHIN Query or QHIN Message Delivery. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Instance Access Consent Policy (IACP):** policy instances (e.g., patient authorization forms) which may influence access control decisions, and which can be referenced by Queries. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

## L

**Logical Entity:** a Participant or Subparticipant that is represented by one or more Nodes in the RCE Directory Service, all of which share a TEFCALD. *Source: SOPs*

## M

**Material Change(s) to the Notice:** a change to the Privacy and Security Notice that results in the Use and Disclosure of Individually Identifiable Information by the IAS Provider in a different manner than when the Individually Identifiable Information was collected or otherwise obtained. This includes, for example, changes that may adversely affect the Individual, new categories of Individually Identifiable Information processed by the IAS Provider, or any change to how Individually Identifiable Information is processed by the IAS Provider that an Individual may not reasonably expect. *Source: SOPs*

**Message Delivery Solicitation:** a Request for a QHIN to initiate a QHIN Message Delivery. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

## N

**Node:** a technical system that is controlled directly or indirectly by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant and that is listed in the RCE Directory Service. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Non-HIPAA Entity (NHE):** a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that is neither a Covered Entity nor a Business Associate as defined under the HIPAA Rules with regard to activities under a Framework Agreement. To the extent a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant is a Hybrid entity, as defined in 45 CFR § 164.103, such QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant shall be considered a Non-HIPAA Entity with respect to TEFCA Exchange activities related to such QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant's non-covered components. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Non-Required XP Code:** each XP Code that does not require a Response pursuant to this SOP. *Source: SOPs*

## O

**Objection:** a formal request sent by any QHIN to the RCE regarding an Entrant on the Entrant Review List that is intended to question the factual information about the Entrant submitted by the Sponsoring QHIN and which includes the information required by this SOP. *Source: SOPs*

**Objecting QHIN:** the QHIN that objects to an Entrant. *Source: SOPs*

**Objection Period:** the period of not less than five business days following publication of an Entrant Review List, during which time a QHIN(s) must register an Objection it has to any Entrant. *Source: SOPs*

**Onboarding:** the process Applicant must undergo to become a Designated QHIN, as set forth in this SOP. *Source: SOPs*

**ONC:** the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## P

**Participant/Subparticipant Caucus:** a forum established pursuant to an applicable SOP(s), the purpose of which is for the Participants and Subparticipants to meet and discuss issues of interest directly related to TEFCA Exchange and related activities under the Framework Agreements. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation (ToP):** the requirements set forth in Exhibit 1 to the Common Agreement to which: QHINs must contractually obligate their Participants to agree; to which QHINs must contractually obligate their Participants to contractually obligate their Subparticipants and Subparticipants of the Subparticipants to agree, in order to participate in TEFCA Exchange including the QHIN Technical Framework (QTF), all applicable Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and all other attachments, exhibits, and artifacts incorporated therein by reference. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Participant:** to the extent permitted by applicable SOP(s), a U.S. Entity that has entered into the ToP in a legally binding contract with a QHIN to use the QHIN's Designated Network Services to participate in TEFCA Exchange in compliance with the ToP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Passthrough Node:** a Node that is neither an Initiating nor Responding Node and through which a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant transmits transactions to and from Initiating and Responding Nodes, including any other services it provides. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Payment:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 164.501. *Source: SOPs*

**Principal:** a QHIN, Participant or Subparticipant that is acting as a Covered Entity, Government Health Care 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. *Source: SOPs*

**Privacy and Security Notice:** an IAS Provider's own supplied written privacy and security notice that contains the information required by the applicable SOP(s). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Protected Health Information (PHI):** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 160.103. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Public Health Authority:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 164.501. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Public Health:** a Request, Use, Disclosure, or Response permitted under the HIPAA Rules and other Applicable Law for public health activities and purposes involving a Public Health Authority, where such public health activities and purposes are permitted by Applicable Law, including a Use or Disclosure permitted under 45 CFR § 164.512(b) and 45 CFR § 164.514. For the avoidance of doubt, a Public Health Authority may Request, Use, and Disclose TEFCA Information (TI) hereunder for Public Health to the extent permitted by Applicable Law and the Framework Agreements. *Source: SOPs*

**Publication Day:** the day on which the RCE will publish the Entrant Review List to all QHINs. *Source: SOPs*

**Publication Deadline:** the specified time by which a Sponsoring QHIN(s) must submit an Entrant in order for such Entrant to be included in the next Entrant Review List. *Source: SOPs*

## Q

**QHIN Caucus:** a forum established pursuant to an applicable SOP(s), the purpose of which is for the QHINs to meet and discuss issues of interest directly related to TEFCA Exchange and related activities under the Framework Agreements. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*



**QHIN Directory:** a system used by QHINs to record and resolve the identifiers and endpoints of members of their network (i.e., Participants and Subparticipants). The QHIN Directory includes a local copy of the RCE Directory. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**QHIN Message Delivery:** the act of a QHIN delivering information to one or more other QHINs (i.e., TEFCA Exchange) for delivery to one or more Participants, Subparticipants, or Individuals. (Sometimes referred to as a “push”). *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**QHIN Query:** the act of a QHIN Querying information from one or more other QHINs (Sometimes referred to as a “pull”). *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**QHIN Technical Framework (QTF):** the most recent effective version of the document that contains the technical, functional, privacy, and security requirements for TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN):** to the extent permitted by applicable SOP(s), a Health Information Network that is a U.S. Entity that has been Designated by the RCE and is a Party to the Common Agreement countersigned by the RCE. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Query Solicitation:** a Request for a QHIN to initiate a QHIN Query. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Query(ies) (including its correlative uses/tenses “Queried” and “Querying”):** the act of asking for information through TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## R

**RCE Directory:** the individual organization entries that form the content of the RCE Directory Service. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**RCE Directory Service:** a technical service provided by the RCE that enables QHINs to identify their 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. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE®):** the entity selected by ONC that enters into the Common Agreement with QHINs in order to impose, at a minimum, the requirements of the Common Agreement, including the SOPs and the QTF, on the QHINs and administer such requirements on an ongoing basis. The RCE is a Party to the Common Agreement. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*



**Record Locator Service (RLS):** a service that provides authorized users the location of records based on criteria such as a patient ID and/or record data type, as well as providing functionality for the ongoing maintenance of health record location information. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Required Information:** the Electronic Health Information, as defined in 45 CFR § 171.102, that is (i) maintained in a Responding Node by any QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant prior to or during the term of the applicable Framework Agreement and (ii) relevant for a required XP Code, as set forth in the QTF or an applicable SOP(s). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Responding Gateway:** a transaction gateway that supports incoming Requests and Responses for QHIN Query (Patient Discovery, Document Query, Document Retrieve) and QHIN Message Delivery. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Responding Node:** a Node through which the QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant Responds to a received transaction for TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Responding QHIN:** a QHIN that receives (and responds to as appropriate) a QHIN Query or QHIN Message Delivery from an Initiating QHIN. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**Response(s) (including its correlative uses/tenses “Responds,” “Responded” and “Responding”):** the act of providing the information that is the subject of a Query or otherwise transmitting a message in response to a Query through TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## S

**Security Posture:** the security status of an entity’s networks, information, and systems based on information assurance resources including, without limitation, people, hardware, software, and policies, and capabilities in place to manage the defense of the entity’s networks, information, and systems and to react as the situation changes (derived from NIST Definition 800-30r1). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Signatory:** the entity that has satisfied Section 4.1 and is a Party to the Common Agreement. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Social Security Determination (T-GOVDTRM-SSD):** means TEFCA Exchange initiated by the United States Social Security Administration, or its Delegate(s), for the purposes of data collection to support Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income determinations. *Source: SOPs*

**Standard Operating Procedure(s) or SOP(s):** a written procedure or other provision that is adopted pursuant to the Common Agreement and incorporated by reference into a Framework Agreement to provide detailed information or requirements related to TEFCA Exchange, including all amendments thereto. Each SOP identifies the relevant group(s) to which the SOP applies, including whether Participants or Subparticipants are required to comply with a given SOP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**State:** any of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Subparticipant:** to the extent permitted by applicable SOP(s), a U.S. Entity that has entered into the ToP in a legally binding contract with a Participant or another Subparticipant to use the Participant's or Subparticipant's Connectivity Services to participate in TEFCA Exchange in compliance with the ToP. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Sponsoring QHIN:** the QHIN that submits an Entrant into the Entrant Review List. *Source: SOPs*

**Support:** the technical capability to receive and Respond to transactions from QHINs, Participants, and Subparticipants via TEFCA Exchange, including transmitting all information that a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant may send via TEFCA Exchange related to any XP Code (e.g., the content of the packet itself, if any). *Source: SOPs*

## T

**TEFCA Exchange:** the transaction of information between Nodes using an XP Code. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**TEFCA Information (TI):** any information that is transacted through TEFCA Exchange except to the extent that such information is received by a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant that is a Covered Entity, Business Associate, or NHE that is exempt from compliance with the Privacy section of the applicable Framework Agreement and is incorporated into such recipient's system of records, at which point the information is no longer TI with respect to such recipient and is governed by the HIPAA Rules and other Applicable Law. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**TEFCA Security Incident(s):**

- (i) An unauthorized acquisition, access, Disclosure, or Use of unencrypted TI using TEFCA Exchange, but NOT including any of the following:
  - (a) Any unintentional acquisition, access, Use, or Disclosure of TI by a Workforce Member or person acting under the authority of a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant, if such acquisition, access, Use, or Disclosure (i) was made in good faith, (ii) was made by a person acting within their scope of authority, (iii) was made to another Workforce Member or person acting under the authority of any QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant, and (iv) does not result in further acquisition, access, Use, or Disclosure in a manner not permitted under Applicable Law and the Framework Agreements.
  - (b) A Disclosure of TI where a QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant has a good faith belief that an unauthorized person to whom the Disclosure was made would not reasonably have been able to retain such information.
  - (c) A Disclosure of TI that has been de-identified in accordance with the standard at 45 CFR § 164.514(b).
- (ii) Other security events (e.g., ransomware attacks), as set forth in an SOP, that adversely affect a QHIN's, Participant's, or Subparticipant's participation in TEFCA Exchange. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Threat Condition:** (i) a breach of a material provision of a Framework Agreement that has not been cured within fifteen (15) days of receiving notice of the material breach (or such other period of time to which the Parties have agreed), which notice shall include such specific information about the breach that the RCE has available at the time of the notice; or (ii) a TEFCA Security Incident; or (iii) an event that RCE, a QHIN, its Participant, or their Subparticipant has reason to believe will disrupt normal TEFCA Exchange, either due to actual compromise of or the need to mitigate demonstrated vulnerabilities in systems or data of the QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant, as applicable, or could be replicated in the systems, networks, applications, or data of another QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant; or (iv) any event that could pose a risk to the interests of national security as directed by an agency of the United States government. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**TEFCA Required Treatment (T-TRTMNT):** a Query that meets the requirements of Section 5.3 of the Treatment XP Implementation SOP. *Source: SOPs*

**Transaction Type(s):** any one of a Patient Discovery, Document Query, Document Retrieval, Message Delivery, and/or FHIR. *Source: SOPs*

**Transitional Council:** the interim governing body for activities conducted under Framework Agreements, as more fully described in the applicable SOP(s). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Treatment:** has the meaning assigned to such term at 45 CFR § 164.501. *Source: SOPs*

## U

**U.S. Entity/Entities:** any corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other legal entity that meets all of the following requirements:

- (i) The entity is organized under the laws of a State or commonwealth of the United States or the federal law of the United States and is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and the State or commonwealth under which it was formed;
- (ii) The entity's principal place of business, as determined under federal common law, is in the United States; and
- (iii) None of the entity's directors, officers, or executives, and none of the owners with a five percent (5%) or greater interest in the entity, are listed on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List published by the United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control or on the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals/Entities. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**U.S. Qualified Person:** means those individuals who are U.S. nationals and citizens at birth as defined in 8 USC 1401, U.S. nationals but not citizens of the United States at birth as defined in 8 USC 1408, lawful permanent residents of the United States as defined in the Immigration and Nationality Act, and non-immigrant aliens who are hired by a U.S. Entity as an employee in a specialty occupation pursuant to an H-1B Visa. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1*

**Uniform Resource Identifier (URI):** a set of characters that identifies a specific logical or physical resource used by Internet related computer programs. *Source: QTF Version 2.1*

**United States:** the fifty (50) States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States including, without limitation, all military bases or other military installations, embassies, and consulates operated by the United States government. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

**Use(s) (including correlative uses/tenses, such as “Uses,” “Used,” and “Using”):** with respect to TI, means the sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of such information within an entity that maintains such information. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## V

**Vetted XP:** the XP(s) for which Entrants must be vetted in accordance with this SOP, which includes TEFCA Required Treatment. *Source: SOPs*

## W

**Workforce Member(s):** any employees, volunteers, trainees, and other persons whose conduct, in the performance of work for an entity, is under the direct control of such entity, whether or not they are paid by the entity. *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## X

**XP Code:** the code used to identify the XP in any given transaction, as set forth in the applicable SOP(s). *Source: Common Agreement Version 2.1 and Participant/Subparticipant Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0*

## VERSION HISTORY

Revision Date	Referenced Documents
July 1, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Agreement Version 2.0</li> <li>• Delegation of Authority SOP Version 1.0</li> <li>• Exchange Purposes (XPs) SOP Version 2.0</li> <li>• Facilitated FHIR SOP Version 1.0</li> <li>• IAS Provider Requirements SOP Version 2.0</li> <li>• QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Version 2.0</li> <li>• RCE Directory Service Requirements Policy SOP Version 1.0</li> <li>• Participant/Subparticipant Participant/Subparticipant Terms of Participation Version 1.0</li> <li>• XP Implementation SOP: Treatment Version 1.0</li> </ul>
August 6, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• XP Implementation SOP: Public Health Version 1.0</li> <li>• XP Implementation SOP: Health Care Operations Version 1.0</li> </ul>
November 13, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• XP Implementation SOP: Vetting Process Version 1.0</li> <li>• Updated Common Agreement Version 2.1</li> </ul>
January 17, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TEFCA Governance SOP Version 1.0</li> <li>• Onboarding and Designation SOP Version 3.0</li> <li>• Exchange Purposes (XPs) SOP Version 4.0</li> </ul>
November 25, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• XP Implementation SOP: Government Benefits Determination Version 1.0</li> <li>• QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) Version 2.1</li> <li>• Exchange Purposes (XP) SOP Version 4.1</li> </ul>
January 16, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed SOP-specific provenance from SOP definitions and updated introductory language accordingly.</li> <li>• Changes align with SOPs published on January 16, 2026.</li> </ul>