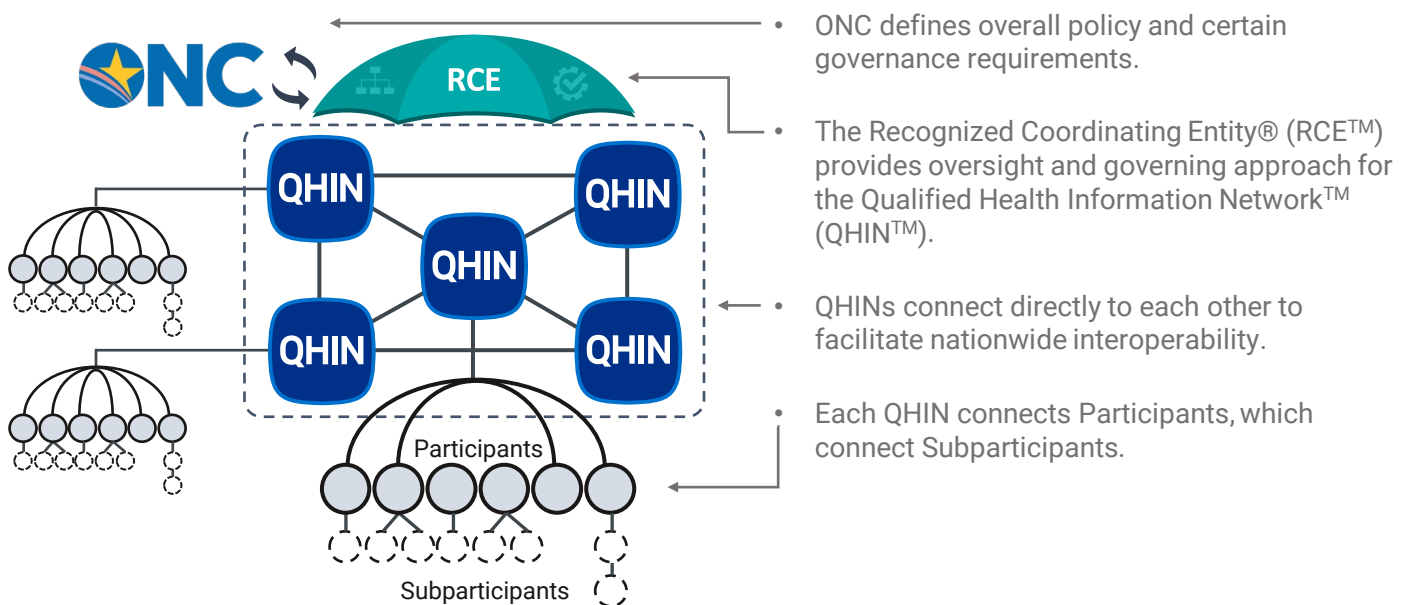


# Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement<sup>SM</sup> (TEFCA<sup>SM</sup>)

## TEFCA

- Establishes a universal floor for interoperability across the country.
- Provides individuals and organizations with easier, more efficient, secure access to more health information.
- Significantly reduces the number of connections that individuals, health care providers, and other interested parties need to make to get the health information they seek.
- Creates baseline governance, legal, and technical requirements that will enable secure information sharing across different networks nationwide.
- Enables an expanded set of exchange purposes beyond Treatment including Individual Access Services, Public Health, Payment, Health Care Operations, and Government Benefits Determination—all built upon common underpinnings.
- Supports existing health information networks and expands and improves the access to health information they can provide.

## How will exchange work under TEFCA?



## What are the Exchange Purposes under TEFCA?

- The Exchange Purpose identifies the reason for which information could be requested or shared via TEFCA.
- Six Exchange Purposes are currently authorized under the Common Agreement.
- Additional Exchange Purposes may be added over time.



Treatment



Public Health



Payment



Government Benefits Determination



Health Care Operations



Individual Access Services

## TEFCA Components

**Trusted Exchange Framework (TEF)** describes a common set of foundational principles for policies and practices to facilitate data sharing.

**Common Agreement** is the legal contract that the RCE and a QHIN sign. It establishes the infrastructure model and governing approach for users in different health information networks to securely share information with each other.

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** provide detailed information or requirements related to the exchange activities under the Common Agreement.

**QHIN Technical Framework (QTF)** outlines the technical specifications and other technical requirements necessary for QHINs to exchange information.

**QHIN Onboarding** is the process that applicant QHINs must undergo to become a designated QHIN and to become operational in the production environment.

## Implementation

**TEFCA will go live in 2023!**

### Applicant QHINs Accepted for Onboarding

There are currently seven organizations that have begun the onboarding process to become a QHIN:

- CommonWell Health Alliance
- eHealth Exchange
- Epic Nexus
- Health Gorilla
- Kno2
- KONZA National Network
- MedAllies

Details about QHIN requirements and onboarding is available on the RCE's website [RCE.SequoiaProject.org](https://www.rce-sequoia.org)

### Common Agreement Updates

The first Common Agreement update—termed [Version 1.1](#)—was published in November 2023 and implements changes that are required by HHS prior to TEFCA going live.

ONC is planning a second update to the Common Agreement—termed Version 2.0—to be released in the first quarter of 2024. This update will restructure the Common Agreement to [enable FHIR-based exchange](#) and implement other changes to enhance the existing infrastructure.

Stay updated and engaged with ONC and the RCE by participating in online [RCE Information Sessions](#).