

TEFCA and You



*Enabling access to all your medical records...
when and where you need them.*



What is TEFCA?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy created the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement™, or TEFCA™, to streamline how patients and doctors access and share electronic health information.

TEFCA makes it easier for you to access your health records, stay informed about your care, and collaborate more effectively with your doctors – without compromising your privacy and security.

Your Health Information . . . in *Your* Hands

We live in a digital world and your health information currently lives in many electronic health record systems at hospitals and your various doctors' offices.

You likely already have some access to your records through patient portals and apps provided by your doctors' offices and hospitals. But you still have to manage multiple logins, and there's no easy way to see all your records and medications in one place. If you're a patient with multiple health conditions, this can be especially hard to deal with.

If you're tired of bookmarking patient portals and resetting passwords to track your blood pressure or access test results, TEFCA is for you.

How Will TEFCA Benefit You?



TEFCA will deliver many important benefits for patients when their providers and insurance companies participate. You will be able to:



Access all your health records from providers and payers that participate in TEFCA – all in one place through a TEFCA-enabled health app.



Allow your health information to follow you when you move, change doctors, or start a new insurance plan.



Track the decisions you make with your doctors.



Track your immunization and vaccination information.



Share your health records with your primary care physician and your other providers.



Allow your caregivers to access your health information with your permission.

A Digital Game Changer for Patients

Everyone needs access to their medical records, but there are certain situations where TEFCA will really deliver for you.

→ **Patients with multiple doctors and sources of care**

Access health information in one place with an app of your choice, without having to visit the portal of each healthcare provider.

→ **People changing locations, doctors, or health insurance**

Gather your health information in one place and share it with new doctors and other healthcare providers.

→ **Patients with ongoing or chronic health conditions**

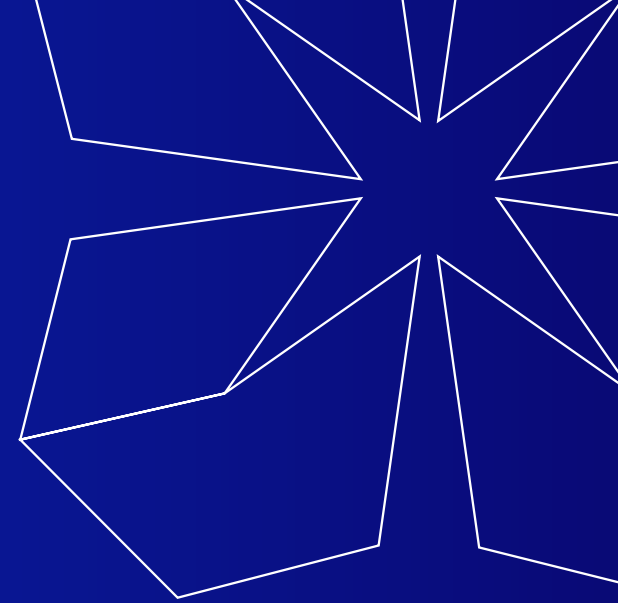
Benefit from streamlined care coordination among primary care physicians, specialists, and other caregivers so everyone has the best and most recent information to make decisions about your care.

→ **Caregivers and those assisting the elderly or other loved ones**

Access information from doctors, hospitals, and other healthcare providers to support your loved one when given permission.

→ **Emergency room doctors and personnel**

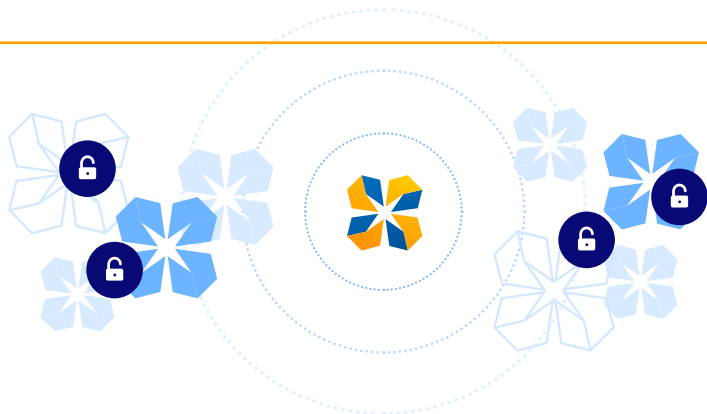
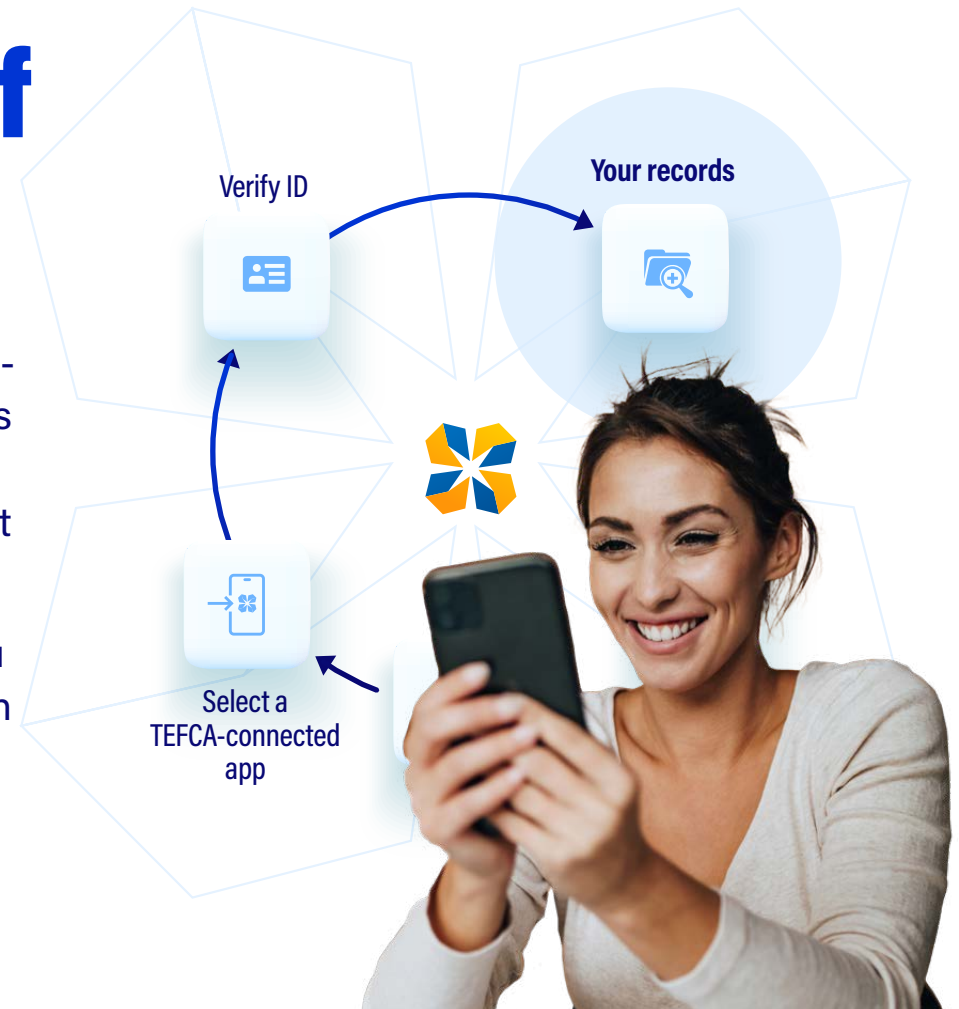
Instantly access your medical history, even if you have not been treated at that hospital before.



Taking Advantage of All TEFCA Offers

You will be able to benefit from TEFCA by using a web-based or mobile consumer health app that participates in TEFCA. For a health app to do so, it must agree to specific privacy, security, and legal requirements about how it will protect and use your data.

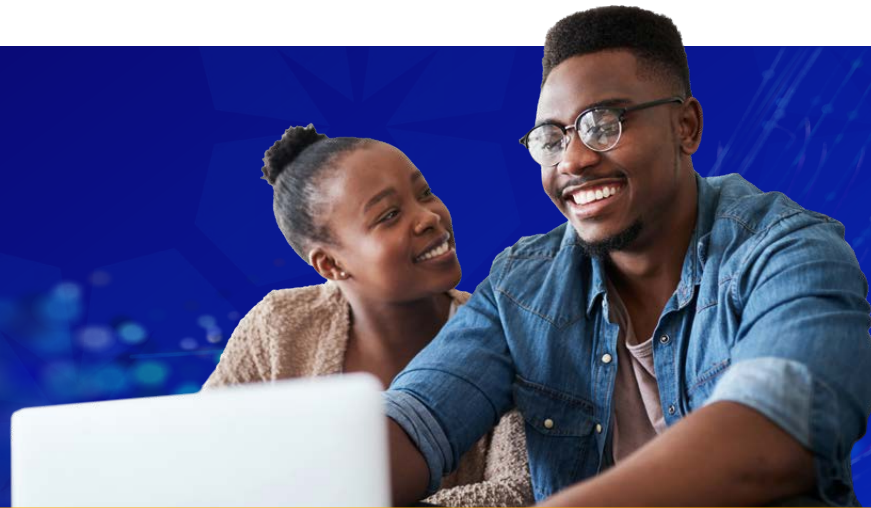
When you have selected a TEFCA-connected app, you will be prompted to provide some personal information to verify who you are and that you have the right to your records.



TEFCA is expanding rapidly, with more participants and technology apps planning to sign on in the next year. Ask your healthcare provider and your consumer health app vendor if they're connected to TEFCA to find out if you can take advantage of everything TEFCA has to offer.



Always Protect Your Data



Your health data is personal, and you need to make sure you protect it. The moment your records are pulled into your health app from your medical providers, you assume some of the responsibility to protect them.

Although TEFCA-connected consumer health apps agree to many of the terms of HIPAA, you still need to read the fine print and ensure you understand how the health app vendor intends to use your data. Just as you would review the Notice of Privacy Practices (NPP) in your clinician's office, you should review the NPP for your consumer health app to understand how your health information will be collected, processed, stored, and used.

Become a part of the future of health data sharing across the United States!

To learn more, visit www.HealthIT.gov/TEFCA.