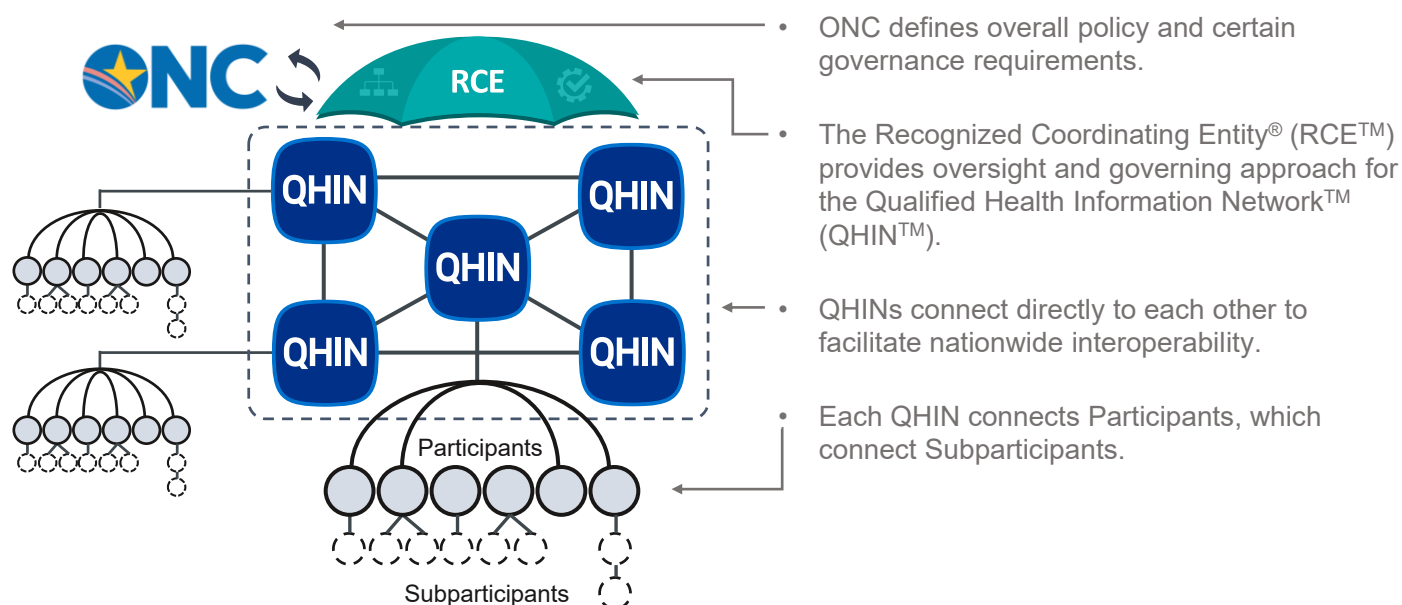# Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement™ (TEFCA™)

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?

- ONC defines overall policy and certain governance requirements.

- The Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE™) provides oversight and governing approach for the Qualified Health Information Network™ (QHIN™).

- QHINs connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability.

- Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants.

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 describes a common set of foundational principles for policies and practices to facilitate data sharing.

Common Agreement is the agreement 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 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

Designated QHINs

There are currently seven organizations that have completed the QHIN onboarding process and are recognized as designated QHINs for TEFCA exchange:

- 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.

Common Agreement Updates

The first Common Agreement update—termed Version 1.1—was published in November 2023 and implemented changes that were required by HHS prior to TEFCA going live.

A second update to the Common Agreement—termed Version 2.0—was published in May 2024. Version 2.0 updated 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 RCE Information Sessions.