

# Draft Trusted Exchange Framework

## Highlights for the Patient Community

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### What is the Draft Trusted Exchange Framework?

#### Upgrading healthcare for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Imagine if your healthcare information was as easy to use as your favorite app, as convenient to get what you need as online shopping and as simple to share with your doctors as sending a text. The US Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT is working to upgrade healthcare for the 21<sup>st</sup> century to:

- Give you **easy and convenient** access to your health information, when you need it, wherever you are.
- **Secure** access to your health information and provide ways to protect the privacy and security of your information when you share it electronically with your doctors and all of the places you receive care.
- Use **smartphone apps and other technology** to access, use, and share your health information in ways that can help you.
- Have access to **more health data about you**, presented in ways that can help you understand that information

Over the past decade, a growing number of doctors have adopted electronic health records (EHRs) and used health information technology (health IT) to better serve you when you come into their practice. When your health information is stored electronically, it can be easier for doctors to share that information with other doctors involved in your care, and easier for you to get access to your own data. This helps ensure that important health information is available when and where it is needed, and that you get the high quality care you deserve.

One way that doctors can share your health information is through a health information network. These networks are similar to cell phone networks, only they are for sharing health information. ONC wants to make health information networks work better for you and your doctors. To do this, ONC is developing policies that networks can use to allow them to share health information with other networks. These policies, which are included in the Draft Trusted Exchange Framework, will also enable both you and your doctors to feel confident that your electronic health information is being shared securely.

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### What does this mean for me?

The Draft Trusted Exchange Framework is designed with you in mind, and wants to make sure that you can access, share, and use your health information electronically. When more doctors are connected through trusted networks, your information will be more available, even when it is held at different locations. Improved availability of your electronic health information will help your doctors provide you with the best treatment possible.

Learn more about how health care is upgrading for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and comment on the Draft Trusted Exchange Framework by visiting [healthit.gov](http://healthit.gov).