

# Draft Trusted Exchange Framework

## Highlights for the Payer Community

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### What is the Draft Trusted Exchange Framework?

The [21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act](#), signed into law in December 2016, required the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology to “convene public-private and public-public partnerships to build consensus and develop or support a trusted exchange framework, including a common agreement among health information networks nationally.”

On January 5, 2018, ONC released the [Draft Trusted Exchange Framework](#), which outlines a set of principles for trusted exchange and minimum required terms and conditions for trusted exchange. This is designed to bridge the gap between providers’ and patients’ information systems and enable all types of health care stakeholders and health information networks (HINs) to share patient data.

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### What are the most important things for payers to know about the Draft Trusted Exchange Framework?

- Data from the network can **improve the care received by plan members**.
    - Increase ability of providers to coordinate care for patients by allowing them to more effectively communicate with other providers.
    - Allow plans to give providers better tools for care management.
    - Enhance the monitoring and measurement of the quality of care given to patients.
  - To better support care, payers can gain **access to more data** on the patients they currently serve if they join the network.
    - Connected networks can receive and will be required to share a core set of clinical data.
  - Payers will eventually be able to **retrieve data on multiple patients at once**, based on a patient panel, for those permitted purposes outline in the Trusted Exchange Framework.
  - This additional data will allow payers to improve analyses they currently perform on their populations. This means **better population health monitoring, more accurate risk adjustment for providers, and improved value-based payment models**.
  - Allowing payers to more **easily share data with providers** will ensure that providers have more opportunity to succeed under value-based payment models.
  - The Trusted Exchange Framework provides a **single “on-ramp”** to allow all types of healthcare stakeholders to join any health information network they choose and be able to participate in nationwide exchange.
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### How can payers and purchasers be involved in the Trusted Exchange Framework?

- Payers could require that providers they contract with be connected to the network created by the Trusted Exchange Framework.
- Payers could either join a Qualified Health Information Network (Qualified HIN), or could join with other entities and form their own Qualified HIN.
- [Please comment on the Draft Trusted Exchange Framework](#). ONC is engaged in an open process to ensure that the network best serves the interest of patients and is eager to hear from payers on the best path forward.