



Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA)

2017 ONC Annual Meeting

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21st Century Cures Act

- Coordination with HHS Policy Team on Cures Provisions
- Title IV – Delivery:
 - » **Section 4001:** Assisting Doctors and Hospitals in Improving Quality of Care for Patients (*Burden Reduction strategy, Specialty certification*)
 - » **Section 4002:** Transparent Reporting on EHR Transparency, Usability, Security, and Functionality (*EHR Significant Hardship, Conditions of Certification, EHR Reporting Program*)
 - » **Section 4003:** Transparent Reporting on EHR Transparency, Usability, Security, and Functionality - Interoperability (*Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement, Health IT Advisory Committee, Provider digital contact information index*)
 - » **Section 4004:** Information Blocking
 - » **Section 4005:** Leveraging EHRs to Improve Patient Care (*registry/EHR information*)
 - » **Section 4006:** Empowering Patients and Improving Patient Access to Electronic Health Information
 - » **Sections 4007, 4008:** GAO Studies on Patient Matching, Patient Access to Health Information



The Office of the National Coordinator for
Health Information Technology

Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Interoperability, Enabled

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Genevieve Morris, Principal Deputy National Coordinator for Health IT | ONC



Need For TEFCA

- 21st Century Cures Act requirement to develop or support a trusted exchange framework and common agreement.
- Currently, there is a proliferation of agreements in place among healthcare participants.
- Variation among current health information network agreements limits broad scalability and interoperability across the country.
- Providers feel they have to join multiple networks.
- High costs to healthcare providers due to multiple interfaces, agreements, and networks.

TEFCA Process

- Two public listening sessions held to date with more than 500 individuals attending each.
- Contractor completed analysis of the trust frameworks and agreements for the major networks and organizations.
 - » Analysis is available at healthit.gov/trustedexchange.
 - » Highlighted areas of variance and alignment between the various organizations.
- Initial public comment period completed.
 - » Feedback on what should or shouldn't be included in the TEFCA was solicited.
 - » Nearly 90 comments were received
- Internal collaboration with federal agencies, including NIST

Timeline



General Comments Received from Stakeholders

- Avoid disrupting or duplicating existing efforts that are successfully enabling data exchange.
- Focus requirements on critical areas of inconsistency across existing network agreements that require standardization to enable cross-state exchange, and build upon/leverage existing areas of alignment.
- Don't try to establish a single approach to address all data exchange needs.
- Ensure enough flexibility to reflect differences in local and state policy, as well as differing business models, technical approaches and capacities of participating organizations.
- Reduce cost and technical barriers to participation for small providers and developers not eligible for Meaningful Use.
- Establish a floor, not a ceiling for data exchange

Stakeholders who can use the Trusted Exchange Framework

HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORKS



Goals of the TEFCA

GOAL 1

Build on and extend existing work done by the industry

The TEFCA recognizes and builds upon the significant work done by the industry over the last few years to broaden the exchange of data, build trust frameworks, and develop participation agreements that enable providers to exchange data across organizational boundaries.



GOAL 2

Provide a single “on-ramp” to interoperability for all

The TEFCA 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 regardless of what health IT developer they use, health information exchange or network they contract with, or where the patients’ records are located.



GOAL 3

Be scalable to support the entire nation

The TEFCA aims to scale interoperability nationwide both technologically and procedurally, by defining a floor, which will enable stakeholders to access, exchange, and use relevant electronic health information across disparate networks and sharing arrangements.



GOAL 4

Build a competitive market allowing all to compete on data services

Easing the flow of data will allow new and innovative technologies to enter the market and build competitive, invaluable services that make use of the data.



GOAL 5

Achieve long-term sustainability

By providing a single “on-ramp” to nationwide interoperability while also allowing for variation around a broader set of use cases, the TEFCA ensures the long-term sustainability of its participants and end-users.





Discussion

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Thank You

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