TEFCA™ Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement

TEFCA and Its Benefits for
Healthcare Providers

Key Benefits of TEFCA

- Easy access to complete patient records
- More available information to strengthen person-centered care
- Automated public health reporting

The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement™, known as TEFCA™, is a policy and technology framework for health information sharing in the United States. It was created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy to connect health information networks across the country to each other.

Much in the same way you can call people across different mobile phone carriers, and you can access your financial records regardless of which bank's ATM you visit, TEFCA simplifies nationwide connectivity for accessing patient health records.

TEFCA achieves this by delivering secure network-to-network data sharing across health information networks nationwide. This has the potential to make it much easier for clinicians to get the accurate information they need, when they need it, to effectively treat their patients.
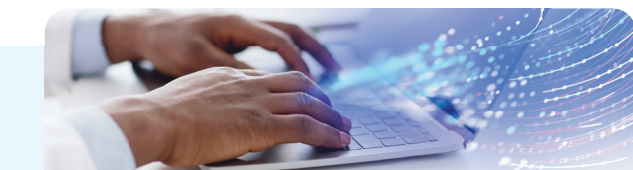
TEFCA's Benefits for Clinical Care

Improves care coordination and outcomes. Access more complete patient information from other hospitals and health systems, doctors' offices, labs, ambulatory care providers, federally qualified health centers, and others.

Eases public health reporting. Electronically submit case reports and case details to multiple state and local public health agencies without creating unique connections.

Increases confidence in data received from others. Information exchanged through TEFCA will be in consistent electronic formats, meaning the information will be more easily reviewed and included in your longitudinal patient records.

Helps meet federal requirements. Satisfy Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data sharing requirements under the Promoting Interoperability Program.

Reduces network connections. You only need one connection into a QHIN™ or a QHIN Participant to share health information securely with any other TEFCA-connected organization.

Ensures a secure, government-backed exchange framework. TEFCA provides the governance needed to ensure that all TEFCA-connected organizations protect patient data and act according to established requirements.

HealthIT.gov/TEFCA

A Nationwide Framework for Sharing Health Data

TEFCA builds upon interoperability efforts happening across the country by creating a single framework for sharing health data.

Large national health information networks are volunteering to serve as the backbone for TEFCA connectivity. TEFCA connects these networks – known as Qualified Health Information Networks™ (QHINs™) – to each other by creating a common set of technology standards and policy requirements that allow them to connect with each other.

To become a QHIN, the network passes rigorous technology and security testing and agrees to the same rules of engagement for themselves and their members. By connecting the many networks into a nationwide network-of-networks, TEFCA exchange enables any member of one QHIN to request and share electronic health information with any member of any other QHIN.

Each QHIN represents dozens or even hundreds of organizations already sharing health records with each other. Their members are healthcare systems, health information networks (HIN), federal care providers, public health agencies, payers, and health IT vendors. By connecting QHINs to each other, TEFCA significantly increases the number of organizations you can share data with and request data from.

How You Can Participate in TEFCA

1 **Find out if your organization participates in a health information network by asking your technology lead or office manager. Your network may be a regional, state, or federal health information network, or a network created by your EHR vendor.**

2 **Ask your technology lead or office manager to inquire if the network is a QHIN or if it is a member of a QHIN. The current list of QHINs can be found on the TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE™) website (https://rce.sequoiaproject.org/designated-qhins/).**

⟶ **If your network IS connected,** ask them how to opt in to TEFCA.

⟶ **If your network IS NOT connected,** ask them about their plans for connecting.

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

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