

# Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) and Public Health

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# TEFCA Overview

TEFCA was developed, in part, to create a nationwide system that enables safe and easy sharing of healthcare information across care settings with a goal of increasing access to data for improved outcomes.

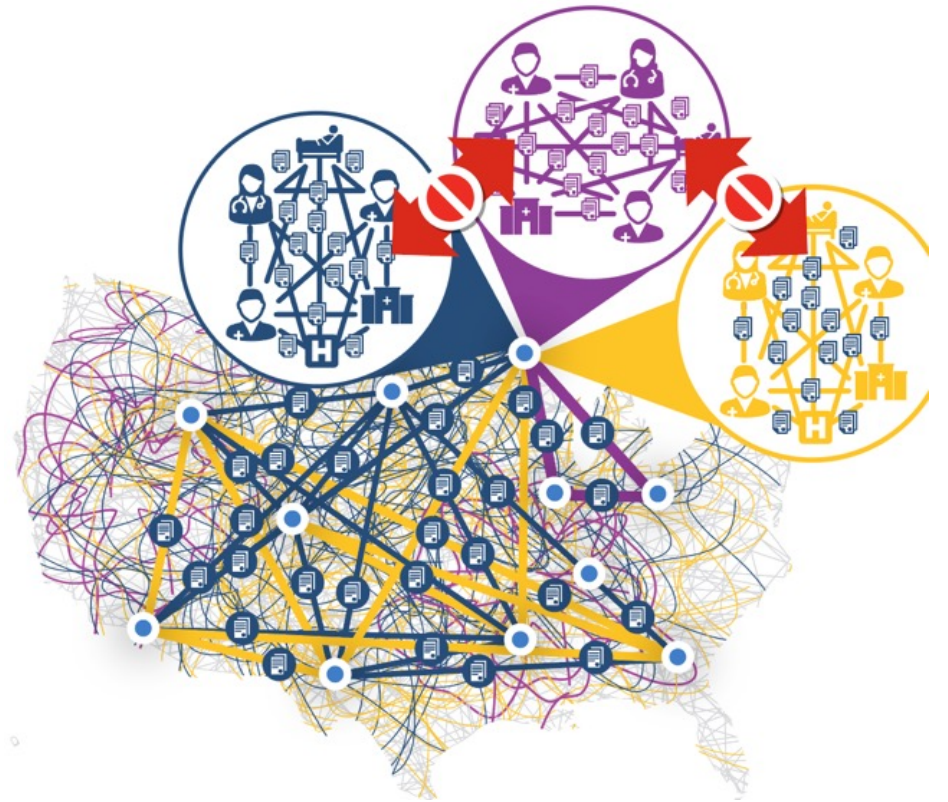
It is made up of two parts:

1. Trusted Exchange Framework details standards that networks must follow when sharing data, and
2. Common Agreement is a legal agreement that governs data sharing between networks.

# Why do we need TEFCA?

## COMPLEXITY OF PROLIFERATION OF AGREEMENTS

- Many organizations have to join multiple Health Information Networks (HINs), and most HINs do not share data with each other.
- Trusted exchange must be simplified in order to scale.



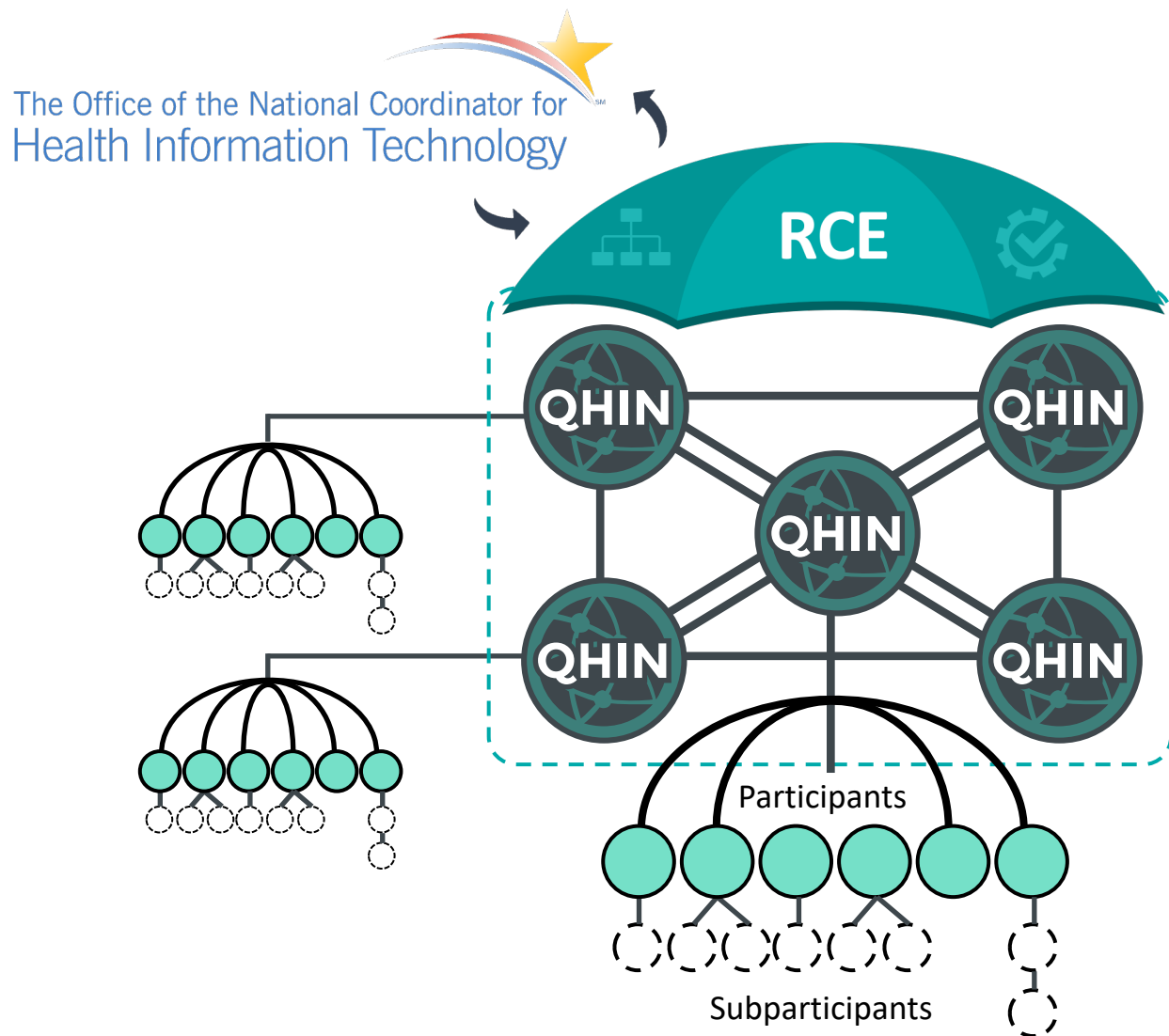
# TEFCA Goals

- Establish a universal governance, policy and technical floor for nationwide interoperability
- Simplify connectivity for organizations to securely exchange information to improve patient care, enhance the welfare of populations, and generate health care value
- Enable individuals to gather their health care information



- **Consumers:** Access, share and control their own records
- **Providers and health systems:** Obtain complete picture of care across all settings to improve care and coordination with fewer connection points
- **Payers:** Get and share data needed for care management, value-based care, etc.
- **State programs and public health:** Enhance understanding of health metrics, ease burden of public health reporting and program management

# How will exchange work under TEFCA?



- ← ONC defines overall policy and certain governance requirements.
- ← RCE provides oversight and governing approach for QHINs.
- ← Qualified Health Information Networks (QHINs) connect directly to each other to facilitate nationwide interoperability.
- ← Each QHIN connects Participants, which connect Subparticipants.



- Support for both **Document-Based exchange** (e.g., CDA, HL7v2, FHIR Content using **IHE-based exchange** via QHINs and **FHIR-based exchange** between API endpoints (Facilitated FHIR)
- **Three Exchange Modalities**
  - » QHIN Query (Patient Discovery and Document Query & Retrieve)
  - » QHIN Message Delivery
  - » Facilitated FHIR (including Bulk FHIR)
- **Six Authorized Exchange Purposes plus two sub purposes**
  - » Treatment
  - » Payment
  - » Health Care Operations
    - Health Care Operations SubXP 1
  - » Individual Access Services
  - » Government Benefits Determination
  - » **Public Health**
    - **Public Health SubXP1**
- Final CA v2 for Production by **Q1 2024**



ONC  
TEFCA  
RECOGNIZED  
COORDINATING  
ENTITY

# TEFCA and Public Health





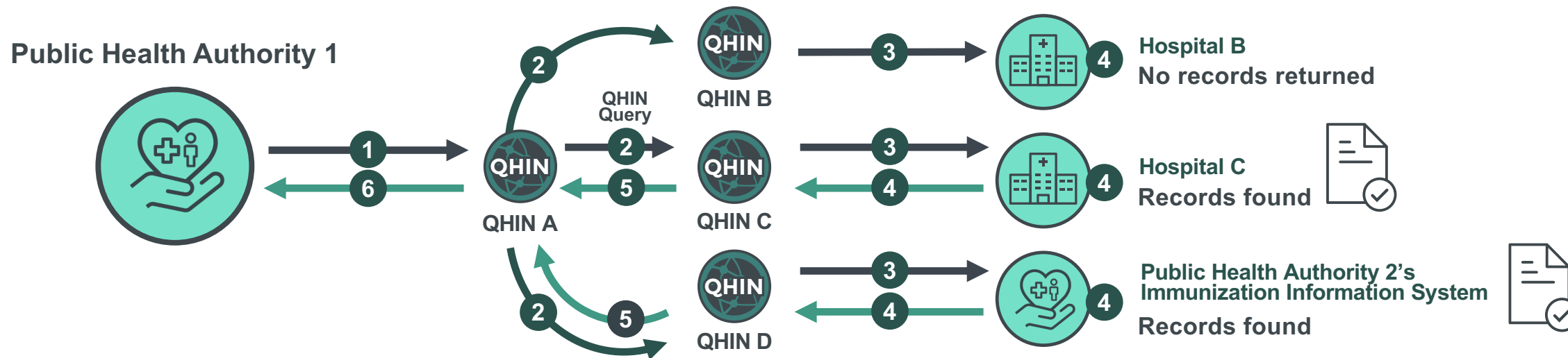
- Improve access to population health data.
- Support public health reporting.
- Facilitate bidirectional exchange with public health.
- Facilitate emergency preparedness and response.
- Further advancing interoperable exchange for Medicaid.
- Augment state-level information exchange initiatives.



- Disease/Condition Reporting
  - » Electronic Case Reporting
  - » Electronic Lab Reporting
  - » Other Electronic Disease/Condition Reporting
- Case Investigation

# Exchange Purpose Example – Public Health\*

## Use Case: Public Health Authority queries TEFCA for a case investigation.



- 1 A Public Health Authority 1 (Participant) is performing a case investigation. It has a public health need and the appropriate authority to understand all previous care provided to a particular patient. It sends a request for medical records to QHIN A for the Exchange Purpose of Public Health.
- 2 QHIN A initiates QHIN Query to all QHINs.
- 3 QHIN B, C, D execute their query methodology to request medical records from their Participants.
- 4 Hospital B finds no records. Hospital C and Public Health Authority 2's Immunization Information System (both Participants) respond to their respective QHINs with medical records.
- 5 QHIN C, D send medical records to QHIN A.
- 6 QHIN A sends medical records to the Public Health Authority.

\*Public Health is an authorized Exchange Purpose under the Common Agreement but response to a query for this Exchange Purpose is not required as of February 2023.



- **QHIN Message Delivery**
  - » QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant → Public Health Authority or Public Health Intermediary listed in the RCE Directory as capable of receiving Message Deliveries for Public Health
- **QHIN Query**
  - » PHAs listed in the RCE Directory Services → QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant
- **Facilitated FHIR**
  - » **Push.** QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant → Public Health Authority or Public Health Intermediary listed in the RCE Directory with a FHIR endpoint
  - » **Request.** PHAs listed in the RCE Directory Services w/ FHIR endpoint → QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant with a FHIR endpoint

**Public Health Intermediary:** A QHIN, Participant, or Subparticipant with the authority to receive TEFCA Information for the purpose of Condition/Disease Reporting and submit reportable cases to Public Health Authorities.

Questions?