

Your Handy Guide to Confusing Healthcare Acronyms

HHS | HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The mission of HHS is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

OCR | OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

The HHS Office for Civil Rights enforces federal civil rights laws, conscience and religious freedom laws, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy, Security, and Breach Notification Rules, and the Patient Safety Act and Rule, which together protect the fundamental rights of nondiscrimination, conscience, religious freedom, and health information privacy.

ONC | OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is at the forefront of the administration's health IT efforts and is a resource to the entire health system to support the adoption of health information technology and the promotion of nationwide, standards-based health information exchange to improve health care.

QHIN | QUALIFIED HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK

A Qualified HIN (QHIN) is a network of organizations working together to share data. QHINs will connect directly to each other to ensure interoperability between the networks they represent.

RCE | RECOGNIZED COORDINATING ENTITY

The Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) is responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining the Common Agreement component of the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA).

TEFCA | TRUSTED EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK & COMMON AGREEMENT

The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), outlines a common set of principles, terms, and conditions to support the development of a Common Agreement that would help enable nationwide exchange of electronic health information (EHI) across disparate health information networks (HINs).