# Health Information Exchange Steering Committee Meeting

## *Special Session*

June 19, 2023

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# Agenda

- National eHealth Exchange

- Open Meetings
  - HIE Steering Committee
  - HIE Data Governance mtg

# National eHealth Exchange

# National Data Exchange: What is eHealth Exchange

- Network of Networks connecting more than 300 healthcare organizations, federal agencies (including VA/DOD), health information exchanges, and the Carequality network, so medical data can be exchanged nationwide to improve patient care and public health.

  - Query-based access to patient data (in and out)

  - Participant list https://ehealthexchange.org/participants/

- Governed by a Coordinating Committee.

- All participants sign a Data use and Reciprocal Services Agreement (DURSA).

  - The DURSA is based upon the existing body of law (federal, state, local, tribal) applicable to the privacy and security of health information and is supportive of the current policy framework for health information exchange.

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# How VITL Connects to eHX

- Prior to fall of 2022, VITL had a point-to-point connection and enabled specific partners to query VHIE data: UVMHN through Epic, and the VA and DoD through Joint HIE.

- After implementing the new HIE platform, VITL needed to build a new connection to eHX to regain access and sharing capabilities.

- Now participants must connect through a "Hub" platform, which allows and expects data sharing with all eHX participants, aligning with information blocking rules.

- A Hub connection allows others to query the VHIE and (eventually) VITLAccess users to query across eHX participants for treatment & care coordination purposes only

  - eHX supports other use cases: eCase Reporting, Social Security Disability Benefits Determination, Life Insurance Applications, Encounter Alerts

- VITL is preparing for testing with UVMHN, VA and DOD when they are ready.

- Currently, all other queries are blocked.

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# ONC Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA)

- From the Sequoia Project, the current Recognized Coordinating Entity :

  - The Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement, also known as 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). The TEFCA is designed to scale EHI exchange nationwide and help ensure that HINs, health care providers, health plans, individuals, and many more stakeholders have secure access to their electronic health information when and where it is needed.

- What Is the ONC Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement? - ONC TEFCA RCE (sequoiaproject.org)
- Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) | HealthIT.gov

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# Looking forward

- Attachment A of the current HIE Plan allows for national exchange, based on guidance of the HIESC

- VITL would allow access to VHIE participants with a VHIE Services Agreement in place

- We would like to

  - Discuss an approach for opening up access with other participants where data is desired by Vermont providers and/or who request data from us

  - Begin discussions about participating in TEFCA

# Attachment A

## Section 7—National Exchange

A.  **General**. Each Individual's electronic Protected Health Information that is contained in the Vermont Health Information Exchange shall be available for query-based exchange with national exchanges pursuant to Restatement II of the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement ("DURSA"), April 13, 2019, and as amended in the future, unless a Participating Health Care Organization elects to not make their data available or the Individual has affirmatively elected not to have the Individual's electronic Protected Health Information shared in that manner. Participants in these exchanges shall access Protected Health information for permitted purposes pursuant to and as defined by DURSA to facilitate and protect eHealth Exchange. Additionally, an individual's PHI contained on the VHIE shall also be provided for permissible purposes to other organizations as required by federal law.

B.  **VITL's Responsibilities**. VITL, in coordination with <u>and subject to the approval of </u>the HIE Steering Committee, shall participate in the DURSA and any successor agreements thereto and shall comply with the requirements of participation. VITL may also participate in the exchange of Protected Health Information with other state or regional health information exchanges under direct agreements so long as they are consistent with the DURSA's exchange framework and protections for the privacy, confidentiality and security of the health data.

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# Open Meetings

- Promote Transparency
  - For HIE Steering Committee
  - For the Subcommittees
  - For Data Governance Council

- HIE process: healthdata.vermont.gov
  - Post the agenda 24 hours in advance
  - Post materials shared/discussed

- For discussion:  HIE Steering Committee(s) as open mtgs?
  - https://sos.vermont.gov/municipal-division/open-meetings/
  - AHS Feedback:
    - HIE Steering Committee is not subject to the Open Mtg Law
    - Involvement in the Committee is voluntary
    - No participants are required to attend
    - No Board members
    - Committee does not have decision-making authority (recommendations of the committee are subject to approval by the Green Mountain Care Board, which holds open mtgs on the committee's recommendations)

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