

**New TEFCA Resources Released.** The Sequoia Project, the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE™), released new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These Public Health and Health Care Operations Exchange Purpose Implementation SOPs include:

- [Public Health Exchange Purpose \(XP\) Implementation SOP](#)
- [Health Care Operations XP Implementation SOP](#)
- [Individual Access Services XP Implementation SOP](#) (updated)
- [Exchange Purposes \(XP\) SOP](#) (updated)
- [QHIN Security for the Protection of TEFCA Information](#) (updated)

These documents offer guidance on how TEFCA will support important use cases beyond treatment, such as electronic case reporting and care coordination/case management. In addition to the re-published [TEFCA Glossary](#) and [TEFCA Cross Reference Resource](#), the RCE also updated the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) on its website. The Sequoia Project will conduct a TEFCA informational call on August 20<sup>th</sup> (12:00-1:30 p.m. ET) to discuss the SOPs and address other issues. Go [here](#) to register for the call.

**CMS to Host Office Hours Sept. 6 on Promoting Interoperability Program.** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy and Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ASTP/ONC), will host office hours on the Electronic Case Reporting measure of the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange Objective for the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program. The session will take place on Sept. 6, 2024, at 2:00 PM ET. If you have a question related to the Electronic Case Reporting measure and would like to attend this office hour session, please email [Elizabeth.Holland@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Holland@cms.hhs.gov) with your question and CMS will send the dial-in information. CMS notes that space is limited.

**CISA and FBI Issue Guidance to Informs Users on Secure Software Products.** The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released [guidance](#) on secure by design software products which includes resources to assess product security maturity and whether a manufacturer follows secure by design principles. The guidance addresses questions and lists resources that organizations buying software can use to better understand a software manufacturer's approach to cybersecurity and ensure that the manufacturer makes secure by design a core consideration. This guidance is a counterpart to [CISA's Secure by Design guidance](#) for technology manufacturers, which lays out three secure by design principles: (i) Take ownership of customer security outcomes; (ii) Embrace radical transparency and accountability; and (iii) Build organizational structure and leadership to achieve these goals.

**NIST Publishes the First 3 Standards for Post-Quantum Encryption.** The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) released a final set of encryption tools designed to withstand the attack of a quantum computer. These post-quantum

encryption standards, called FIPS 203, 204 and 205, secure a wide range of electronic information, from confidential email messages to e-commerce transactions that propel the modern economy. Each of the three standards include instructions for incorporating them into products and encryption systems. These standards are the primary tools for general encryption and protecting digital signatures and the agency encourages system administrators to start integrating them into their systems immediately. Go [here](#) for more information.

### **CMS Extends Accountable Care Organization Primary Care Flex Model**

**Application Submission Period to Aug. 23.** CMS extended the application submission period for the Accountable Care Organization Primary Care Flex ([ACO PC Flex](#)) Model until August 23, 2024 at 11:59pm EST. The previous deadline for submission was August 1, 2024. This change has no impact on existing Shared Savings Program application actions and deadlines. The ACO PC Flex Model is a new primary care payment model for low-revenue ACOs in the Shared Savings Program that aims to increase primary care funding and flexibility.

### **CMS Innovation Center Announces Finalized Transforming Episode**

**Accountability Model.** The CMS Innovation Center announced the finalized [Transforming Episode Accountability Model \(TEAM\)](#). The five-year mandatory model will incentivize coordination between care providers during a surgery as well as the services provided during the 30 days after surgery with the aim of: (i) improving the quality of care for people with Medicare undergoing certain surgical procedures; (ii) reducing rehospitalization and recovery time; (iii) lowering Medicare spending; and (iv) driving equitable outcomes.

TEAM will focus on lower extremity joint replacement, surgical hip and femur fracture treatment, spinal fusion, coronary artery bypass graft, and major bowel procedure. The model will start in January 2026 and end in December 2030. Go [here](#) for more information.

### **CMS to Host 2025 Self-Nomination and QCDR Measure Submission Q&A Session**

**Aug. 22.** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a virtual question and answer (Q&A) session on Thursday, August 22, 2024, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. ET. Participants can ask questions during this Q&A session about the Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) and Qualified Registry Self-Nomination and QCDR Measure Submission processes for the 2025 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) performance period. Go [here](#) to register.

**District Court Rules on Use of Online Tracking Technologies.** The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas issued a [ruling](#) partially in favor of the American Hospital Association concerning its case involving the use of tracking technologies on providers' websites. The court ruled OCR exceeded their legal authority and violated the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) provision that requires the agency to provide notice and allow for public comments prior to issuing a final rule. It is uncertain how OCR will

apply this decision more broadly as the ruling focused on the use of unauthenticated websites and data that exceeds searches for health-related information.