

Generic Clearance for the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) Monitoring Activities [insert #]

Supporting Statement A

1. Circumstances of Information Collection

The Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) is requesting approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for a new generic information collection entitled Generic Clearance for the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement™ (TEFCA™) Monitoring Activities. The 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act), enacted in 2016, calls on the U.S. to “develop or support a trusted exchange framework, including a common agreement among health information networks nationally” (Section 4003(b) of the Cures Act). TEFCA is a public-private supported network of networks led by the ONC called for in the Cures Act. The aim for TEFCA is to create a standardized approach for secure, seamless, and interoperable health information exchange across the United States.

ONC oversees a TEFCA Recognized Coordinating Entity® (RCE®) to administer aspects of TEFCA. The RCE is responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining the Common Agreement that establishes the baseline technical and legal requirements for health information networks to share electronic health information. Additionally, the RCE collaborates with ONC to designate and monitor Qualified Health Information Networks® (QHINs™). QHINs are health information networks that have been approved to access and exchange data through TEFCA. To be designated to participate in TEFCA, QHINs must submit an application, complete all of the onboarding and testing requirements, and countersign the Common Agreement. QHINs must also comply with the QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) which includes requirements on the submission of performance measures.

ONC may have evolving monitoring needs for TEFCA in the future, dependent on both internal and external factors, such as, changes to federal law, federal regulations or policy, and/or Congressional appropriations; and other situations that may lead to programmatic changes. A generic clearance would provide ONC with flexibility to create and use tailored information collection templates based on current reporting requirements, including performance measures. This is important to allow for ONC's:

- Monitoring of compliance with TEFCA related federal practices, guidelines, and requirements,
- Assessment of the efficiency and efficacy of TEFCA activities, and
- Documentation of promising practices and the ultimate impact of TEFCA to advance health information exchange.

2. Purpose and Use of Information

The data collections under this clearance will be designed to standardize monitoring and performance reports for TEFCA participants. To accurately monitor the effectiveness of and compliance with TEFCA, QHINs must submit various types of information including applications, attestations, and performance measures. Below are examples of the types of activities that may require an information collection request (ICR) from OMB as part of this generic clearance.

- QHIN application and onboarding

- TEFCA attestation and QHIN directory
- Performance measures and reporting
- Program evaluation and user satisfaction

Reporting requirements shall generally contain information on the following:

- QHIN organization information including but not limited to corporate business address, corporate structure, and legal name.
- Organization information for entities that access the TEFCA network through a QHIN.
- TEFCA network transaction volume, transaction types, and response times.
- Number and characteristics of TEFCA users.

For this generic collection, the following types of reports and templates will be used:

- QHIN application
- Monthly and quarterly reports
- TEFCA attestation submission
- QHIN directory submission
- Program evaluation or usability testing
- Other

The information gathered will be used primarily for internal purposes, but aggregate data may be included in public materials to support findings from other data sources. Consistent with other generic clearances, ONC will submit each individual ICR for OMB review, along with a brief description of the purpose of the data collection, methodology, and individual burden. OMB will either approve the collection, extend the review, or provide comments on the individual request within 30 working days of receipt.

3. Use of Information Technology

The items collected under this request leverage technology. Each QHIN has their own unique technology and processes for reporting, so it is not possible to integrate each one into a single system. Thus, ONC through the RCE, will leverage various techniques to collect necessary information from QHINs including online forms, templates, and internal data systems. Each ICR submitted will describe the technology that will be used for each respective data collection approach.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

The items collected under this request are necessary for program monitoring and to assess performance. This type of information is already required to be reported through regulation or other program requirements. With an anticipated increase in TEFCA participation over time, this generic clearance will enable ONC to standardize its multiple data collection tools which will reduce the burden for QHINs by providing structure to the information that is reported to and collected by ONC, through the RCE.

5. Involvement of Small Entities

These collections will not have an adverse impact on small entities.

6. Consequences If Information Collected Less Frequently

The TEFCA QHIN Technical Framework (QTF) outlines performance measures to be collected on a monthly and quarterly basis. Collecting QHIN performance measure information less frequently could lead to delays in identifying potential issues that could impact the performance and security of the network.

7. Consistency with the Guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2)

This data collection request is fully consistent with guidelines outlined in 5 CFR 1320.5(d)(2). There are no special circumstances required for the collection of information in this data collection.

8. Consultation Outside the Agency

The notice required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d) was published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2026 (Document Identifier: 0990-New-60D). No comments were received in response to this notice.

9. Payment to Respondents

There will be no payments or gifts to submitters for their participation in the submission process. It is voluntary.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

Contact information (e.g. name, email address, phone number, etc.) may be collected for specific programmatic purposes. Respondents will be informed of intended use of their contact information. Information may be used to communicate program performance. This could include sharing aggregated information about TEFCA participants in reports to Congress, for investigations by federal entities such as the HHS Office of the Inspector General and the US Government Accountability Office, or other related purposes. Any assurances of confidentiality will be described in each ICR.

11. Questions of a Sensitive Nature

Information collections under this proposed generic clearance are not expected to include sensitive questions. Each ICR will provide information about any potentially sensitive questions.

12. Estimates of Annualized Hour Burden

Type of Respondent	Form Name	No. of Respondents	No. Responses	Average Burden	Total Burden
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			per Respondent	per Response (in hours)	Hours
QHIN	QHIN Application	15	1	3	45
QHIN	QHIN Monthly Report	15	12	2	360
QHIN	QHIN Quarterly Report	15	4	2	120
QHIN	QHIN Attestation	15	1	1	15
QHIN	TEFCA Directory Submission (weekly)	15	1040	0.033	520
QHIN	Program Evaluation or Usability Testing	15	4	4	240
QHIN	Other	15	4	2	120
Total					1,420

13. Estimates of Annualized Cost Burden to Respondents

There are neither capital or startup costs nor are there any operation and maintenance costs. However, QHINs may experience additional costs associated with submitting requested information to ONC. The QHIN staff responsible for TEFCA reporting are project managers or business analysts. According to the U.S. Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics, this position has a median salary of \$48.65 per hour. Therefore, the total annualized cost burden to respondents total \$69,083 (i.e. 1,420 hours at \$48.65 per hour).

14. Estimates of Annualized Cost to the Government

ONC may commit, depending on complexity, an average of 100 hours from three full-time equivalent staff at the GS-13, GS-14, and GS-15 levels annually to complete the review of and inquire into QHIN data collection efforts, data quality, and performance monitoring. We assume that the expertise of a GS-13, Step 1¹, GS-14, Step 1, and GS-15, Step 1 federal employee(s) will be necessary. The hourly wage for a GS-13, Step 1 federal employee located in Washington, DC is approximately \$57.78 totaling an annual cost \$5,778 to the federal government. The hourly wage for a GS-14, Step 1 federal employee located in Washington, DC is approximately \$68.27 totaling an annual cost of \$6,827. Lastly, the hourly wage for a GS-15, Step 1 federal employee located in Washington, DC is approximately \$80.31 totaling an annual cost of \$8,031. Therefore, we estimate the cost for ONC to review and facilitate the data collection necessary for TEFCA will be \$20,636 annually. There are no additional costs to the RCE for the data collection efforts included in this generic clearance.

15. Changes in Burden

This is a new data collection.

¹https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/25Tables/html/DCB_h.aspx

16. Time Schedule, Publication and Analysis Plans

Any plans to publish results will be described in individual ICRs under this generic clearance.

17. Display of Expiration Date

The expiration date for OMB approval will be displayed on the data collection instruments for which approval is being sought.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.