

Operating Policy & Procedure

SUBJECT: CAREQUALITY PILOT		
STATUS: Draft	POLICY #: OPP-10	
Effective Date: 08/20/18	Version: v2.0	Page 1 of 3

I. Purpose

The Sequoia Project facilitated the development of Carequality to promote interoperable data exchange among networks, services and programs and other aggregators of connectivity that use different health IT platforms. Carequality permits data sharing networks, health IT vendors, Health Information Exchanges, healthcare providers and others to become Carequality Implementers by signing the Carequality Connected Agreement, which requires that the Implementer comply with a uniform set of legal obligations and specific policy and technical requirements applicable to specific use cases. An Implementer can make Carequality available to its customers, network members or others with whom it does business by requiring that they accept specific terms and conditions.

The eHealth Exchange desires to engage in Carequality as an Implementer on a pilot basis (the Carequality Pilot). The purpose of this Operating Policy and Procedure is to authorize the eHealth Exchange Coordinating Committee to sign the Carequality Connected Agreement and to flow down the required terms and conditions to eHealth Exchange Participants who wish to serve as Carequality Connected organizations.

For the purpose of the pilot, there will be a limited number of eHealth Exchange participants participating and only doing so with either the treatment permitted purpose or the Social Security Administration (SSA) disability determination use case. Once the pilot concludes, the Coordinating Committee may consider whether to move forward with a full rollout of Carequality, including the broader set of permitted purposes supported in the Carequality Connected Agreement.

II. Policy

eHealth Exchange Participants sign the DURSA by which they agree to comply with certain legal, policy and technical requirements that are necessary to support the safe and secure transfer of electronic health data using eHealth Exchange. The Coordinating Committee was created by the DURSA and is granted authority to oversee operations of eHealth Exchange. Many of the specific technical and operational requirements of eHealth Exchange are contained in one of several Operating Policies and Procedures (OPPs). The Coordinating Committee has determined that eHealth Exchange should participate in Carequality as an Implementer on behalf of any eHealth Exchange Participants that desire to exchange data with other Carequality Connected organizations using the Carequality framework. This requires that eHealth Exchange sign the Carequality Connected Agreement and flow down all applicable requirements to each Participant that desires to exchange information using Carequality. This Operating Policy and Procedure codifies the consent of eHealth Exchange Participants to having the Coordinating Committee sign the Carequality Connected Agreement and flow down the required terms to each Participant that elects to exchange information using Carequality.

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III. Procedure

In order to have the eHealth Exchange become a Carequality Connected organization, the following steps will be taken:

1. The Coordinating Committee will authorize the eHealth Exchange to submit an Implementer application to Carequality and sign the Carequality Connected Agreement on behalf of the Coordinating Committee so that eHealth Exchange can be approved as an Implementer by the Carequality Steering Committee.
2. eHealth Exchange Support staff, provided by The Sequoia Project, will make eHealth Exchange Participants aware of the opportunity to exchange information using Carequality and ask Participants to self-identify those that wish to engage in the Carequality Pilot.
3. The Coordinating Committee will, in consultation with eHealth Exchange Support staff, help identify a limited number of eHealth Exchange Participants to engage in the Carequality Pilot.
4. Each Carequality Pilot Participant accepted to engage in the Carequality Pilot will be provided with a copy of the Carequality Connection Terms that the Participant will be required to accept. A copy of these Terms is attached to this OPP as Attachment 1.
5. Each Participant that agrees to accept the Carequality Connection Terms will provide a written acknowledgment to eHealth Exchange that it accepts the Carequality Connection Terms in their entirety.
6. Each Carequality Pilot Participant will complete the applicable connectivity testing and provide other information as required for the Carequality pilot.
7. If this testing is successful and the information provided is acceptable, the Carequality Pilot Participant will be authorized to use a digital certificate to exchange data with other implementers and Carequality Connected organizations involved in the pilot.
8. eHealth Exchange will provide to Carequality a list of all eHealth Exchange Participants that have agreed to engage in the Carequality Pilot so that these organizations can be listed in the Carequality Directory, as appropriate.

IV. Definitions:

CAREQUALITY: A national-level interoperability framework and common agreement to link all health information networks.

CAREQUALITY IMPLEMENTER: Organizations that sign the Carequality Connected Agreement and are accepted into the Carequality initiative.

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CAREQUALITY CONNECTED AGREEMENT: The legal agreement signed by all Carequality Implementers that contains legally binding requirements for all Carequality Implementers and their users.

CAREQUALITY CONNECTION TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The specific terms and conditions that Carequality Implementers are required to flow down to its customers, network participants, users and all others who will exchange information using Carequality.

DURSA: Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement

eHealth Exchange: A network of Participants who share data in accordance with the DURSA

All other capitalized terms, if not defined herein, shall have the same meaning as set forth in the DURSA.

V. References:

- “Restatement of the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement (DURSA) (September 30, 2014)”
- Carequality Connected Agreement
- Carequality Connection Terms and Conditions
- Carequality Implementation Guide

VI. Related Policies and Procedures:

VII. Version History Date

	Date	Summary of Changes
1	3/8/16	Original Draft
2	7/17/18	Modified to include the SSA Disability Determination Use Case

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Attachment #1: Carequality Connection Terms

<https://sequoiaproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Carequality-Connection-Terms-Approved-11-5-2015.pdf>