carequality
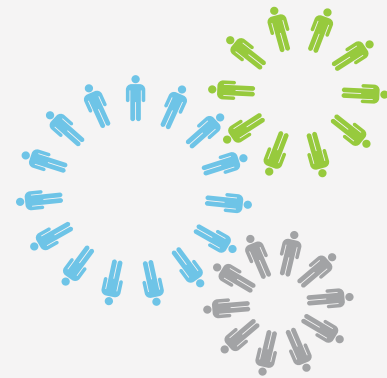
Vision

Carequality is a public-private collaborative that facilitates agreement among diverse stakeholders to develop and maintain a common interoperability framework enabling seamless exchange between and among networks.

Rationale

While substantial progress has been made to advance interoperable exchange of health information, existing networks are generally defined by particular technology platforms, use cases or geographies. This has resulted in multiple networks that operate independent of one another.

The HIE space is rapidly evolving, with new types of networks emerging (e.g. vendor-based networks, release of information companies, private HIEs formed by payers, etc.). There is a need for a unifying set of implementation-level requirements that apply universally across all of these networks to enable health information to flow seamlessly and securely.

Industry stakeholders have expressed a strong preference to have these requirements developed through a public-private collaborative process, with support and participation by the federal government.

To that end, Carequality's mission is analogous to the collaboration of the banking industry to connect ATM networks.

What Will Carequality Do?

Carequality will bring together a diverse group of representatives from the private sector and government to come to collective agreement on how to enable data to flow seamlessly between and among networks and providers, much like the banking industry did for ATM / ACH transactions.

To enable this level of seamless exchange, Carequality will develop:

- a universal set of trust principles which apply across all Carequality use cases;

- a customizable set of policy principles which can be tailored to specific use cases;

- a use case and implementation guide for specific interoperability capabilities, the first of which is focusing on query-based exchange.

Who Is Involved?

Carequality has 35 founding members who supported the launch and ongoing success of the initiative. Nearly 100 volunteers across a diverse spectrum of government and the private sector are actively engaged in Carequality's work.

Carequality will operate based upon the following principles:

- Inclusiveness and transparency
- Flexibility and innovation
- Clear and equitable oversight
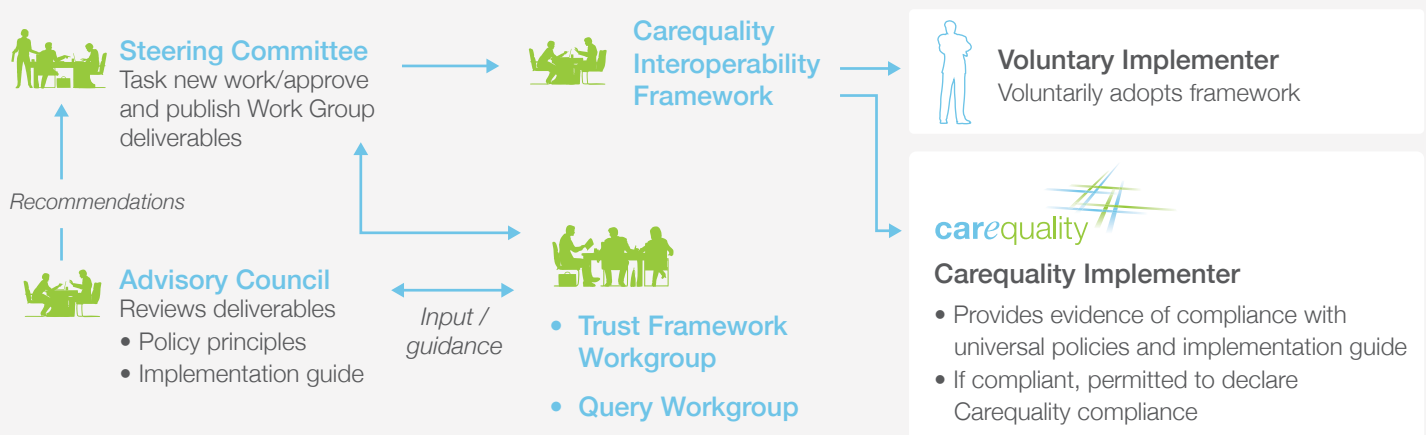- Standards based
- Vendor neutral

Governance

Healtheway, in its capacity as a non-profit, public-private entity, serves as the convener for Carequality, and provides Carequality with a corporate home. Healtheway will not, itself, exchange data or implement HIE as a Participant or Implementer, but will support an open, transparent and inclusive process in which Carequality Implementers and other stakeholders who participate.

Carequality functions as a distinct initiative of Healtheway and has its own governance structure. Carequality was established with a three-tier governance structure, which includes:

- **Steering Committee** – to oversee and govern the work

- **Work Groups** – tasked to do the legwork in defining principles for trust, as well as use case and implementation guides for specific exchange capabilities

- **Advisory Council** – represents diverse stakeholder perspectives to vet the work of the Work Group and make recommendations to the Steering Committee

How Will Carequality Work?

Steering Committee
Task new work/approve and publish Work Group deliverables

Recommendations

Advisory Council
Reviews deliverables
- Policy principles
- Implementation guide

Input / guidance

Carequality Interoperability Framework

- **Trust Framework Workgroup**
- **Query Workgroup**

Voluntary Implementer
Voluntarily adopts framework

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Carequality Implementer
- Provides evidence of compliance with universal policies and implementation guide
- If compliant, permitted to declare Carequality compliance