

CommonWell Health Alliance® Overview Fact Sheet

What: CommonWell Health Alliance® is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to breaking down the silos to data exchange in order to assure that health data follows the individual regardless of where care occurs.

Who: All organizations that share the association's vision for interoperability, including:

- Health Information Technology (health IT) suppliers and digital health companies
- Health care providers, such as physician offices, clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories, etc.
- Other health-focused organizations, including non-profit and for-profit institutes, government agencies, etc.

Vision: Health data should be available to individuals and providers regardless of where care occurs. Access to this data must be built-in to health IT products at a reasonable cost for use by a broad range of health care providers and the people they serve.

Goal/Mission:

- To create a vendor-neutral platform that breaks down barriers to nationwide health data exchange
- To define and promote a national infrastructure with common standards and policies

CommonWell Services:

- Person Enrollment — Enable each individual to be registered and uniquely identified in the CommonWell network
- Record Location — Create a “virtual table of contents” that specifies the available locations for patient information
- Patient Identification and Linking — Link each individual's clinical records across the care continuum
- Data Query and Retrieval — Enable caregivers to search, potentially select and receive needed data across a trusted network

Interoperability Criteria:

- Ability to exchange health data that is built into software at a reasonable cost
- Usable by a broad range of health care providers and the people they serve

Leadership:

- In March 2015, CommonWell announced the appointment of [Jitin Asnaani](#) as its first executive director.

CommonWell Structure: CommonWell is governed by the Board of Directors, which is responsible for the overall governance and direction of the Alliance, and it is advised by eight Committees, which include the following:

- Operating
- Deployment & Utilization
- Government Affairs
- Marketing
- Membership
- Privacy & Security
- Standards, Technology & Implementation (STIG)
- Use Case

Each of these Committees has representatives from Member organizations and, with the exception of the Operating Committee, is open to participation to all CommonWell members. In addition, the Committees receive input from the CommonWell Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from provider organizations using CommonWell Services.

Committee Charters:

- Operating Committee — To support the Alliance Board of Directors and respective Committees in maintaining oversight of the Alliance’s objectives and key initiatives
- Deployment & Utilization Committee — To advance the growth and rapid adoption of CommonWell Health Alliance platform and services among the member solution provider communities by providing network usage reporting and recommended best practice guidance, as well as to advance the growth and rapid adoption of CommonWell Health Alliance platform and services among the member solution provider communities
- Government Affairs Committee — To promote and protect the vision and mission of CommonWell by educating policy makers and shaping public policy, ensuring that health IT interoperability policy is informed by the reality of not just what is theoretically possible, but what CommonWell and its members are achieving and monitoring relevant policy development and guide Alliance strategy to be disseminated as appropriate to members
- Marketing Committee — To establish the CommonWell Health Alliance brand, inspire the health care industry that interoperability is possible, and influence new membership and provider adoption through coordinated, creative and motivating marketing
- Membership Committee — To establish CommonWell as the preeminent healthcare interoperability organization and network to join. We will ensure CommonWell has the best chance of success for recruitment of new members and for those members to activate on network services
- Privacy & Security Committee — To define, document and recommend data privacy and security policies, procedures, and practices for the CommonWell network, to further better: compliance with applicable industry standards and regulations, and applicable law, management of privacy or security incidents related to the CommonWell network; and management and mitigation of operational risks and other issues critical to the CommonWell vision
- Standards, Technology & Implementation Group (STIG) — To develop the functionality needed to deliver on the Alliance’s vision
- Use Case Committee — Identify, define and prioritize business requirements to support new and enhanced capabilities in the CommonWell core services. Capture new business proposals into a reusable template and prioritize the work within the committee. Identify new use case ideas and process ideas which should be evaluated.

Governance: As a not-for-profit trade association, we are governed by a set of [Bylaws](#). These Bylaws, last updated in November 2015, provide the structure and rules for governance and operation of CommonWell.

Membership:

- Membership is open to all organizations that share the association’s vision and mission
- In July 2014, CommonWell opened up the Alliance to include both Contributor and General membership
- As of March 2018, CommonWell has nearly 80 members, representing two-thirds of the acute care EHR market¹ and more than one-third of the ambulatory care EHR market,² as well as market leaders and technology innovators supporting care settings such as post-acute care, imaging, perinatal, laboratory, retail pharmacy, oncology, population health, emergency services and others across the care continuum. A list of Founding, Contributor and General Member organizations can be found on our [Members page](#)
- For more information about becoming a member, visit our [Membership page](#). For more information about membership criteria, visit our [Membership Information page](#).

Funding:

CommonWell is a not-for profit trade association financially sustained primarily through the dues and fees of its members.

¹ KLAS — 2016 Hospital EMR Market Share, May 2016. © 2016 KLAS Enterprises, LLC. All rights reserved. [www.KLASresearch.com](#)

² SK&A, a Cegedim Company — “Physician Office Usage of EHR Software”. February 2017

- **Fees for Providers:** The intent of CommonWell Health Alliance is to provide low cost data liquidity by building the capability to exchange health data into its members' software. CommonWell expects its member companies to be charged under an affordable, commodity-like fee structure. Any charges to providers will be at the discretion of their health IT supplier.

Service Launch and Provider Site Usage:

- CommonWell launched its initial services in January 2014 with 12 health care organizations. Full nationwide rollout is now in progress across participating members
- As of March 2018, more than 8,000 provider sites in all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico have gone live with CommonWell Services and have generated more than 115 million queries against our services.

Industry Relationships:

Relation to Providers:

- Providers contract directly with health IT suppliers for the EHRs and other health technology services to ensure accurate health data collection and improved patient outcomes due to access to data within their site
- CommonWell is a collaboration between health IT suppliers to allow for opportunities for more secure sharing of health data across disparate health systems and EHR suppliers

Relation to Health Information Exchanges (HIEs):

- HIEs provide deeper connectivity in support of a health system or region's needs to achieve population health, improved transitions of care, better care management and/or increased health care efficiency
- CommonWell complements HIEs by creating a common platform for broader, scalable interoperability for identity, consent and secure data access

Relation to Meaningful Use:

- CommonWell was one of the first implementers of the FHIR standard; therefore, CommonWell-enabled EHRs will have the core components for application program interface (API) certification that are included in the ONC 2015 Certification Proposed Rule
- CommonWell services enable providers to query for a clinical summary as required in the Meaningful Use Stage 3 Proposed Rule for health information exchange

Relation to ONC:

- CommonWell leverages ONC-endorsed standards, many of which have already been implemented in founding members' health IT
- CommonWell will work with the ONC and other providers of interoperability services to help ensure standards are implemented consistently

History:

The concept for CommonWell Health Alliance was born during a Bipartisan Policy Center meeting in May 2012. Around the table sat some of our industry's great minds, including Dr. Farzad Mostashari, then ONC National Coordinator for Health IT; Arien Malec, VP of Strategy at RelayHealth; and Dr. David McCallie, Senior VP for Medical Informatics at Cerner. During the meeting, Dr. Mostashari challenged the health IT leaders in the room to help solve one of the main challenges our U.S. health care system faces — building connections across patient health records.

Timeline: For all major milestones pertaining to CommonWell and its nationwide growth, visit [our Milestones page](#).

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