CAQH CORE® Certification and Testing: Achieving Health Care Interoperability

The Role of Providers and their Practice Management Systems Vendors

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm ET

Featured Presenter:
Andrew Frost
*GE Healthcare*
Product Manager
Centricity® Business
Session Topics

• Learning Objectives

• Background
  – CAQH CORE Operating Rules Overview
  – CAQH CORE and Affordable Care Act (ACA) Section 1104: Mandated Operating Rules

• Overview of Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification
  – A Step-by-Step Process

• GE Healthcare – Certification Experience

• Live Edifecs demonstration

• Questions & Answers

• Appendix
  – Appendix A: CAQH CORE Certification Steps
  – Appendix B: Edifecs CORE Certification Testing Portal Visuals
Learning Objectives

• Summarize the CAQH CORE Operating Rules phased development process and outline the timeline for adoption of federally mandated operating rules

• Explain how successful voluntary CAQH CORE Certification includes a combined effort of provider, health plan, PMS vendor and clearinghouse partners

• Describe how operating rules and EDI capabilities can simplify provider workflow and enhance revenue cycle management

• Learn the fundamentals of the voluntary CAQH CORE Certification and Testing process

• Experience a live demo of the Edifecs CORE testing platform
CAQH CORE Operating Rules Overview
Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange

• **CAQH CORE is a multi-stakeholder collaboration developing industry-wide operating rules, built on existing standards, to streamline administrative transactions**
  – Integrated model: Rule writing, certification and testing and outreach/education

• **Mission: To build consensus among healthcare industry stakeholders on a set of operating rules that facilitate administrative interoperability between health plans and providers**
  – Enable providers to submit transactions from the system of their choice (*vendor agnostic*) and quickly receive a standardized response from any participating stakeholder
  – Enable stakeholders to implement in CAQH CORE Operating Rules in phases
  – Facilitate stakeholder commitment to and compliance with, CAQH CORE’s long-term vision
  – Facilitate administrative and clinical data integration

• **CAQH CORE is not:**
  – Replicating the work being done by standard-setting bodies, e.g., ASC X12, HL7, OASIS, W3C
  – Developing software or building a database
What are Operating Rules?

- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) defines operating rules as “the necessary business rules and guidelines for the electronic exchange of information that are not defined by a standard or its implementation specifications”
  - Operating rules address gaps in the standards, help refine the infrastructure that supports data exchange and recognize interdependencies among transactions and the range of standards
- Prior to CAQH CORE, national operating rules for medical transactions did not exist in healthcare outside of individual trading partner relationships
  - Current healthcare operating rules build upon a range of standards – healthcare specific and industry neutral – and support the national HIT agenda
- Operating rules encourage an interoperable network and, thereby, can allow providers to use the system of their choosing – they are used by many other industries
CAQH CORE Rules Development/Adoption Timeline

- CAQH CORE Phases are designed around a set of transaction-based data content rules coupled with infrastructure rules; the rules complement each other.
- Phases establish milestones that encourage feasible progress in resolving industry business needs while minimizing barriers to adoption.

REMINDER: CORE Operating Rules are a baseline; Entities are encouraged to go beyond the minimum CORE requirements.

*Oct 05 - HHS launches national IT efforts

ARRA HITECH Stimulus and ACA Health Care Reform

Phase I Certifications

Future Phases

Phase II Certifications
CAQH CORE Operating Rules: Phased Approach

Operating Rules complement each other: The real value is in the package

Phase I CORE
- Approved
- Implemented
- Certification Available

Eligibility Benefit Request and Response
- *Confirm patient benefit coverage and co-pay, in/out of network variances, coinsurance and base deductible information
- Provide timely and consistent access to this information in real-time (e.g., response times, connectivity, companion guide, *acknowledgements)

Phase II CORE
- Approved
- Implemented
- Certification Available

Expanded Eligibility and Health Care Claim Status Response
- *More patient financials, e.g., YTD patient accumulators, for more services
- Rules to help improve patient matching
- Claim status “infrastructure” requirements (e.g., response time, *acknowledgements)
- More prescriptive connectivity requirements aligned with ONC efforts, e.g., SOAP/WSDL, digital certificates

Phase III CORE
- Drafted and in voting process
- Drafted; initial voting

Electronic Funds Transfer and Electronic Remittance Advice
- EFT enrollment elements, ERA enrollment elements, *CARC/RARC business scenarios with code combinations, re-association timing and infrastructure such as *acknowledgements and connectivity

Expanded Eligibility and Claim Status, Prior Authorization and ID cards
- *Additional eligibility and claim status data content requirements
- Prior Authorization/Referral infrastructure
- *277 Claim Acknowledgement for Health Care Claims (837)
- Standard Health Benefit/Insurance ID Card
- More prescriptive connectivity requirements

*Data not required by HIPAA v5010; operating rules support further use of v5010.
**All CORE Operating Rules, Policies, and Test Suites are developed and approved by CORE Participants.
CAQH CORE and Affordable Care Act (ACA)
Section 1104 Mandated Operating Rules
ACA: Mandated Operating Rule Approach

Operating rule writing and mandated implementation timeframe per ACA legislation

Adoption deadlines to finalize operating rules

July 2011 Eligibility and Claim Status

July 2012 Claims payment/advice and electronic funds transfer (plus health plan ID)

July 2014 Enrollment, Referral authorization, attachments, etc.

Effective dates to implement operating rules

January 2013

January 2014

January 2016

Notes:
(1) NCVHS is the body designated by HHS to make recommendations regarding the operating rule authors and the operating rules.
(2) Statute defines relationship between operating rules and standards.
(3) Operating rules apply to HIPAA covered entities but penalties apply only to health plans.
(4) Per statute, documentation of compliance may include completion of end-to-end testing.
ACA: Status of CAQH CORE Efforts

• **Eligibility and Claim Status**
  – CAQH CORE Phase I and II Operating Rules recommended by NCVHS
  – June 2011 Interim Final Rule (IFC) with comment proposes adoption of Phase I and Phase II CORE, except for acknowledgements; highlights CAQH CORE Certification is voluntary
    • Further defines relationship between standards and operating rules, and ROI
  – Submitted [CAQH CORE comment letter](#) to CMS on September 6, 2011
    • Key CAQH CORE comments on IFR: Include Acknowledgements to realize ROI, maintain broad scope of operating rules given ACA goals, and name CORE as single operating rule author given need for industry direction and resources
  – CAQH CORE will work with CMS as appropriate to answer questions, etc.
  – CMS is expected to issue a Final Rule by the end of 2011
  – In addition, CMS, as soon as practical, will issue a statement on how compliance with the CMS adopted operating rules can be demonstrated
ACA: Status of CAQH CORE Efforts

• **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA)**
  - In February 2011, NCVHS recommended NACHA (financial services operating rule entity) as healthcare EFT SDO and its ACH CCD+ standard format (pharmacy to be addressed in CORE Operating Rules as appropriate)
  - In March 2011, NCVHS subsequently recommended CAQH CORE as authoring entity, in collaboration with NACHA, for the EFT and ERA operating rules
  - CAQH CORE sent an update letter to NCVHS on August 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2011 on the status of the EFT & ERA draft operating rules development
  - CAQH CORE Rules Work Group approved the \textit{Draft Phase III CORE EFT & ERA Operating Rule Set} in September; draft rule set now moves to CORE Steering Committee review and then all-CORE vote in October/November

**NOTE:** CAQH CORE website has a copy of the Draft Phase III CAQH CORE EFT and ERA Operating Rule Set
ACA Section 1104: Compliance

• ACA Administrative Simplification Requirements
  – **Background:** Applies to all HIPAA covered entities. Requires health plans to demonstrate compliance with applicable HIPAA standards and associated operating rules, references concepts of certification and testing, and notes penalties only apply to health plans not all covered entities.
  – **Status:** HHS has not issued specific guidance on how plans will demonstrate compliance with the CMS. [CMS Interim Final Rule with Comment](#) for eligibility and claim status transactions emphasized that the current CAQH CORE Certification process is *voluntary* and noted that HHS will develop a process to verify health plan compliance with the mandated rules.
Overview of Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification
Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification

- CAQH CORE will maintain voluntary CAQH CORE Certification and contribute to the ACA dialogue
  - Provides all organizations across the trading partner network (e.g., health plans, vendors, clearinghouses, providers) useful, accessible and relevant guidance in meeting obligations under the CAQH CORE Operating Rules
  - Encourages trading partners to work together on data flow and content needs
  - Offers vendors practical means for informing potential and current clients regarding which health plans are offering operating rules
  - Achieves maximum ROI because all entities in data exchange follow the rules; once CAQH CORE-certified need to follow rules with all trading partners
Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification

• To date, nearly 60 organizations are CAQH CORE-certified (Phase I or II) with over one-third of all commercially insured lives covered by Phase I CAQH CORE-certified health plans; others are committed to Phase I and/or Phase II in 2011

• CAQH CORE certifies four types of entities that create, transmit or use eligibility and claim status data: health plans, providers, vendors and clearinghouses (includes HIEs); find CAQH CORE-certified entities Here
  – CAQH CORE testing protocols are designed to demonstrate conformance with a specific phase of the CAQH CORE Operating Rules
  – Testing is comprised of stakeholder-specific test scripts by CAQH CORE Operating Rule

• Certification and testing are separate activities
  – Testing is completed by CAQH CORE-authorized testing entities and occurs on-line based on stakeholder-specific test scripts
  – Edifecs is an independent, CAQH CORE-authorized testing entity providing a CORE Certification testing platform
  – Cost of testing and certification is extremely low or free
Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification: A Step-by-Step Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Steps</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pre-certification Planning and Systems Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understand the requirements of the CAQH CORE Operating Rules</td>
<td>2 - 13 months depending upon size and status</td>
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<tr>
<td>and scope your internal efforts to adopt and implement the</td>
<td>of organization</td>
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<td>rules (includes self-testing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Sign and Submit the CAQH CORE Pledge</td>
<td>Official Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formally communicate your intent to pursue CAQH CORE certification for a given Phase of CAQH CORE Operating Rules</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. CORE Certification Testing</td>
<td>Up to 180 days</td>
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<td>• Comprised of three phases: Pre-testing, Testing and Post-testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Each CAQH CORE Phase has its own set of test criteria; testing is comprised of stakeholder-specific test scripts by rule</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Testing is conducted in conjunction with a CAQH CORE-authorized testing vendor</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Apply For the CORE Seal</td>
<td>Up to 30 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entities successfully achieving CAQH CORE certification will receive a CAQH CORE “Seal” that corresponds with the Phase and stakeholder-type of completed testing</td>
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CAQH CORE Measures of Success: Tracking ROI

• Health Plans, vendors and providers that pursue voluntary CAQH CORE Certification are invited to participate in the ROI study
  – Also need participation from providers that are not CAQH CORE-certified, but exchanging data with CORE-certified entities
• CAQH CORE made an early commitment to track Measures of Success
• CAQH CORE contracted with IBM to conduct tracking and analysis
  – Analyze two 3-month measurement periods; volunteers asked to record expenses and then impact one year later
  – If appropriate, IBM staff visits locations to assist with tracking
  – Study includes a standard measurement protocol plus two data collection templates
• Outcomes available from health plans covering 33 million lives and their vendor and provider partners, e.g.,
  – Provider groups working with CAQH CORE-certified health plans saw 10-12% fewer claim denials and a 20% increase of patients verified prior to a visit
  – The time needed by vendors and clearinghouses to connect to trading partners significantly reduces with a common approach to connectivity
Trading Partners Are Critical to Provider Success

- **Scenario 1**: Providers who rely on practice management system vendors
  - When you submit an electronic eligibility request to health plans and they respond with ‘yes/no’ then ask them to:
    - Adopt the CAQH CORE Operating Rules
    - Complete voluntary CAQH CORE Certification
  - Don’t wait for the national mandates; create the ‘Call to Action’ now and engage

- **Scenario 2**: Providers who maintain their own custom systems
  - Commit to become CAQH CORE-certified
    - Acquire a full understanding of CAQH CORE Operating Rules requirements and how they impact your organization’s IT systems
    - Recognize that upfront business/systems planning and analysis is a major component of the project
    - Make sure your vendors are involved early in the planning process; pursue CAQH CORE certification concurrently with your impacted vendors
Voluntary CORE Certification: Provider Planning and Implementation

• Partnership assessment – *focus on existing trading partner relationships*
  – Identify the health plans in your key markets that are CAQH CORE-certified
  – There are over 130 million patients for which all the CAQH CORE information is available (currently certified health plans)
  – Which of your products/systems should be CAQH CORE-certified?

• Technical Assessment
  – Conduct gap analysis and determine what modifications are needed to meet requirements of Phase I and II CAQH CORE Rules (CAQH CORE has gap analysis tool)
  – Contact CORE@caqh.org with questions

• Outline budgetary needs for implementation, e.g.,
  – IT hardware and/or software needs and human resources
  – Updating provider and health plan clients on your commitment

• Track Impact
  – Participate in CAQH CORE’s measurement tracking program for vendors and providers
GE Healthcare
GE Healthcare: Company Profile

• GE Healthcare (NYSE: GE) is a unit of General Electric Company that provides transformational medical technologies and services that are shaping a new age of patient care

• Centricity* Business from GE Healthcare is an innovative revenue cycle management solution for hospitals, risk bearing provider institutions, integrated delivery networks, academic medical centers and large practices that helps them drive greater profitability and efficiency

• Centricity* Business is in use in some of the largest and most prestigious academic medical centers, provider risk bearing entities and large group practices in the US, including:
  – Sharp Healthcare San Diego, California
  – St Vincent Health Indianapolis, Indiana
  – WESTMED Medical Group White Plains, NY

• GE Healthcare is a CAQH CORE Participating Organization
GE Healthcare’s **Centricity* Business Eligibility 270/271 transaction** is a component of the innovative revenue cycle management solution for hospitals, risk bearing provider institutions, integrated delivery networks, academic medical centers and large practices

- Eligibility inquiry and response transactions are handled in conformance with Phase I and/or Phase II CAQH CORE Operating Rules; this functionality is available to all customers on these versions
  - **Centricity* Business Eligibility 270/271 v4.0 and v4.3** are Phase I CAQH CORE-certified products
  - **Centricity* Business Eligibility 270/271 v5.0** is a Phase I and Phase II CAQH CORE-certified product
Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification for Providers

• Rationale for incorporating CAQH CORE Operating Rules into product planning
  – Leverage voluntary CAQH CORE Operating Rules to support optimal Financial Clearance workflows
  – Validate our operating function against an industry standard
  – Commitment to streamlining administrative processing for providers
  – Support compliance with potential healthcare reform requirements
  – Desire to partner with (and be part of) thought leadership with industry leaders
Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification: Provider Benefits

• Providers using Centricity® Business v4.0 and v4.3 are benefiting today from exchanging information with CAQH CORE-certified payers
  – Providers who request eligibility information from CAQH CORE-certified health plans experience improved electronic eligibility and benefits verification with access to base patient financials

• Providers using Centricity® Business v5.0 further benefit when their health plans are Phase II CAQH CORE-certified health plans
  – Receive benefit coverage, co-pay, in/out of network variance, co-insurance, base deductible plus remaining deductible amounts to providers for 40+ key service types
GE Healthcare Centricity: Additional Product & Services

• **Centricity* EDI Services** supports clearinghouse services for Eligibility Benefit Request and Response (v5010 270/271) transactions
  – The Centricity* EDI Clearinghouse Service is used by a portion of GE Healthcare’s Centricity Business customers
  – Centricity* EDI Services submits over 6 million eligibility transactions a month across all of GE Healthcare IT’s revenue cycle customers to over 500 payers
  – Phase I and Phase II CAQH CORE Clearinghouse Testing is underway with a planned completion in 2012

• Rationale for incorporating CAQH CORE Operating Rules into product planning:
  – Leverage *voluntary* CAQH CORE Operating Rules to support optimal Financial Clearance workflows
  – Validate our operating function against an industry standard
Voluntary CAQH CORE Certification: A Vendor/Clearinghouse Perspective

• Lessons Learned
  – Useful to test yourself against industry standard; How do you rank?
  – Pursuing CAQH CORE Phase II Certification expanded our knowledge and capabilities
  – Understand the resources needed to do this; More than you think!
  – Relationships matter
  – Eligibility Transaction benefiting from CAQH CORE Operating Rules

• Next Steps
  – Evaluate for other eligibility and claim status products in GE Healthcare IT portfolio
  – Move forward with CAQH CORE Clearinghouse Certification
  – Continue to be informed and work with CAQH CORE
  – Await final operating rules and adjust accordingly
Edifecs Live Demo
Edifecs Introduction
Company Overview

Corporate Background

• Founded 15 years ago

• 4-yr average growth rate over 50%

• Employee-owned, Debt-free, Profitable

• 300+ Associates

• Seasoned Management Team, with experience at Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, Oracle, GE Healthcare, Wipro, Wellpoint, Blue Plans, ACS, McKesson and other leading technology and healthcare organizations

Customer Momentum

• 46 Blue plans out of total 64

• 47 commercial plans

• 71 providers

• 29 state Medicaids out of total 56
How Edifecs Supports CAQH CORE

• Works directly with CAQH CORE in development of operating rules and test case scenarios

• Has a dedicated web access for CAQH CORE testing with the following features:
  – On-line enrollment which allows for identifying which CAQH CORE stakeholder type is enrolling for testing
    • (1) health plan, (2) product-specific vendors, (3) clearinghouses, (4) providers
  – Allow for on-line testing 24/7
  – Submission of CAQH CORE Certification paperwork
  – Reporting
  – Re-certification
  – Appeals process
  – Audits
  – Service Standards

• Has on-line and live support for quick issue resolution
Healthy Physicians is a physician group who is already Phase I CAQH CORE-certified and has recently pledged to become Phase II CAQH CORE-certified.

As part of the CAQH CORE Certification Process, they must test all applicable CAQH CORE requirements and will do this using the CAQH CORE-authorized testing site on www.edifecs.com.

Today’s demonstration will highlight the following points:
- Registration of your organization
- Selection of programs for testing
- Test script examples
- How to resolve issues
- Next steps after testing is complete
Thank You for Joining Us

Contact CORE@CAQH.org to request a CORE Certification information session

The presentation is available at the CORE Education Events page

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GE Healthcare  
Product Manager  
Centricity Business Revenue Cycle Products

Alison Schambach  
Edifecs  
Senior Healthcare Business Consultant

Monica B. Cunningham  
CAQH  
CORE Consultant, Education & Outreach

For more information, please contact marketing@edifecs.com or CORE@caqh.org
References and Contacts

Prepare by studying:
- CAQH CORE Rules: HIPAA 5010 updates
- Upcoming Mandates - Operating Rules

Learn more about:
- CAQH CORE Certification: A Step-by-Step Process
- IBM Phase I Measures of Success Study

Planning Tools*:
- CAQH CORE Readiness Assessment - Planning Doc #1
- Gap Analysis Worksheet - Planning Doc #2

* To be completed in sequence
Appendix A: CAQH CORE Certification Steps
Step 1: Pre-certification Planning and System Evaluation

A solid understanding of the CAQH CORE Operating Rules combined with an effective planning effort is the basis for a successful voluntary certification testing outcome.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Key Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Discover and master</td>
<td>Understand and thoroughly review CAQH CORE policies, procedures and operating rules. They are publicly available for free at <a href="#">v5010 CAQH CORE Operating Rules</a> on the CAQH website.</td>
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</table>
| b) Plan and analyze            | • Make key project decisions, i.e., Phase I/Phase II  
• Determine which CORE Operating Rules apply to your organization; understand the role of your intermediaries  
• Refer to the [CAQH CORE Readiness Worksheet](#)  
• Identify where current capabilities require system enhancement  
• Inventory your high level project requirements on the [CAQH CORE Gap Analysis Worksheet](#)  
• Determine Pledge date                                                                                       |
| c) Create a project plan       | Implement formal project management practices in alignment with systems development lifecycle                                                   |
| d) Consider potential exemptions| Determine if your organization is eligible for the [Health Plan IT Exemption](#)                                                                 |
### Step 2: Sign and Submit the CAQH CORE Pledge

The CAQH CORE Pledge indicates an organization’s commitment to adopt, implement and comply with the CAQH CORE Operating Rules, to encourage trading partners to use the rules and to be a publicly recognized supporter of them.

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<tr>
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| a) Complete appropriate Pledge form             | Determine CAQH CORE Phase(s) for which you are seeking certification.  
**Phase I** and **Phase II** Pledge forms are readily available on the CAQH website  
**Note:** CORE pledge must be signed by an authorized executive |
| b) Submit the signed pledge to become a CORE-certified entity | Organizations seeking CAQH CORE Certification may submit a signed CAQH CORE Pledge form via email core@caqh.org, fax: (202) 861-1454, or mail:  
CORE, c/o CAQH  
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
South Building, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004  
**Questions:** Contact CAQH at (202) 861-6380  
**Note:** In advance of submitting Pledge, confirm ability to successfully meet the 180-day window from date of Pledge to date of completed testing |
Step 3: CAQH CORE Certification Testing

The successful completion of a stakeholder-specific CAQH CORE Certification Test Suite is a prerequisite for obtaining a CAQH CORE-certified seal.

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
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</table>
| a) Pre-Testing    | • Review Testing Policy, Master Test Suite and Master Test Bed Data  
                   • Upgrade all affected internal systems as previously defined in Step 1  
                   • Complete your internal testing of CORE-ready systems  
                   **Note:** This step may be performed prior to submitting CORE Pledge |
| b) Testing        | • Register and schedule your testing with a CAQH CORE-authorized testing vendor  
                   • CAQH Certification testing is conformance-based and as such is not exhaustive  
                   • The CAQH CORE Test Suite must be used by all stakeholders in order to maintain standard and consistent test results  
                   • Certification test scripts are specific to stakeholder-type  
                   • Data Content Rules are tested using a CAQH CORE Master Test Bed of Data  
                   • Testing must be successfully completed within 180-days of pledge |
| c) Post-Testing   | Remediate all systems/software issues identified by testing process and, if necessary, repeat CAQH CORE Certification testing |
Step 4: Apply for Your CAQH CORE Seal

A prerequisite to receiving your CAQH CORE-certified Seal is CAQH CORE’s receipt of successful testing results from a CAQH CORE-authorized testing vendor.

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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Determine your CAQH CORE Seal fee</td>
<td>A one time application fee per CAQH CORE Phase is assessed based upon a stakeholder-specific fee scale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Complete appropriate CAQH CORE Seal Application</td>
<td>Phase I Application or Phase II Application may be found on the CAQH website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Bundle together all required application paperwork</td>
<td>Package includes:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Proof of successful certification testing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• HIPAA Attestation Form(s) for Phase I or Phase II which must be signed by an authorized executive</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• If applicable, file a Health Plan IT Exemption Request Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Submit the CAQH CORE Seal Application package</td>
<td>Forward CAQH CORE Seal Application form with the CAQH CORE Seal fee to:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CORE, c/o CAQH 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW South Building, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20004</td>
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**Note:** CORE will have 30 business days from receipt of application to complete its assessment of the application.
# Become a CAQH CORE Endorser

Entities that do not create, use or transmit eligibility, benefits or claims status data can demonstrate support for the CAQH CORE mission, vision and operating rules by applying for a CAQH CORE Endorser Seal.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Key Points</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| a) Complete appropriate Pledge form             | Determine CORE Phase(s) for which you are seeking Endorser status; no application fee required  
Access Phase I Endorser and Phase II Endorser pledge forms on the CAQH website  
*Note: CAQH CORE pledge must be signed by an authorized executive* |
| b) Submit the signed CAQH CORE Endorser Pledge  | Organizations seeking CAQH CORE Endorser status may forward a signed CAQH CORE Endorser Pledge form via email to core@caqh.org, fax: (202) 861-1454, or mail:  
CORE, c/o CAQH  
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
South Building, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20004  
*Questions: Contact CAQH at (202) 861-6380* |
Appendix B: Edifecs CORE Certification Testing Portal Visuals
Edifecs Home Page
Click on Customer Community/Edifecs Compliance Online

Start here
Customer Community
Registration & Login Page

Contact Us
Either by phone or email, we would love to answer any questions you may have.
Sales: 425 452 0620
Support: 425 452 0623

Members Log In

- Core Compliance Online
- Core5010 Compliance
- Core Compliance Online
- Core Phase I Testing
- Core Phase III Testing 4010
- Core Phase III Testing 5010
- Core ServiceDesk

Email confirmation sent when registration is approved.
Congratulations! You have successfully enrolled into the Edifecs CORE testing system and are ready to begin certification testing. Edifecs is proud to have been selected by CAQH as an approved certification vendor and is offering this certification testing portal at no charge to you the CORE Stakeholder.

In preparation for testing please make sure that you have reviewed the CAQH Step-by-step CORE Certification Process information. This webpage will provide you with links to the necessary documents to complete the initial steps of CORE certification, as well as provide you a step-by-step review of the certification process. Please note that the primary document to begin the certification process is the CORE Pledge. You can begin testing without having signed the Pledge, but the Pledge must be signed and submitted prior to applying for the CORE seal. Also note that once you have signed the Pledge you will have 180 days to complete the certification testing required for your Stakeholder type. To begin testing please follow the simple outlined steps below.

1. Download and Review the Edifecs CORE Testing Quick Start Guide.

2. Determine whether you are going to test Subscribers Only or Subscribers with Dependents.

   Some health plans, like CMS (Medicare), have systems where the patient is always the member or subscriber. In these cases there is no dependent separate from the patient. You may elect to test either Subscribers Only or Subscribers with Dependents, but are not required to test both. This is designed to accommodate health plans with systems where the patient is the member/subscriber as well as those where the patient may be either the member/subscriber or a dependent.

3. Make certain that you have the connectivity resources available.

   CORE Testing requires that 270 Eligibility Requests and 271 Eligibility Responses are transmitted to and received from the CORE testing site using the two envelope standards (HTTP Mime Multipart and SOAP+WSDL). It is expected that as a CORE Stakeholder and testing entity that you have some knowledge of how the protocol works and have the resources to formulate the posts and communications required during the testing process. Edifecs will be more than happy to answer any questions related to testing. However, Edifecs will not perform the connectivity requirements on behalf of CORE testing stakeholders. Questions related to connectivity and your internal capabilities should be directed to internal IT staff, who should have the resources to assist CORE stakeholders in their connectivity testing.

4. Click on the “Programs” tab at the top to access the testing programs that you have been enrolled in for CORE testing.
Edifecs CORE Testing Portal
Test Scripts Assigned by Stakeholder

Test scripts assigned based on the certification stakeholder-type (i.e., health plan, vendor, clearinghouse, provider)

Completion status (i.e., not started, pending, or completed) allows organization to easily track progress