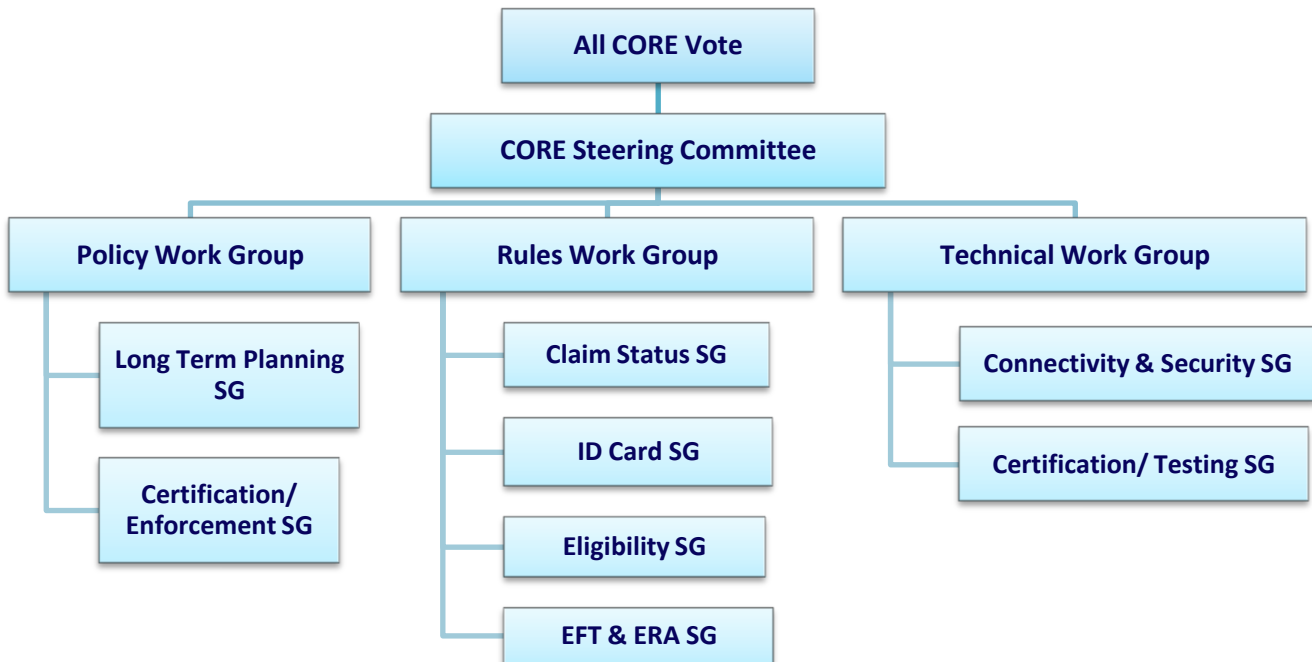


CAQH Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE) CORE Work Groups and Subgroups

CORE Voting Process



CORE Rules development starts at the Subgroup level. Beginning with thorough research and a sound business case, CORE Subgroups develop draft rule language/requirements. **NOTE:** Subgroups are adjusted as CORE rule writing focus changes, e.g., new Subgroup formed for EFT and ERA rules development.

After extensive Subgroup vetting, including straw-polls, surveys and consensus agreement, the rules are referred up to the appropriate CORE Work Group for approval. After approval on a Work Group ballot, rules are sent to the CORE Steering Committee for review and approval. The role of the Steering Committee is to approve rules to be submitted to an all-CORE vote. **NOTE:** A quorum and majority approval must be met at Work Group, Steering Committee and all-CORE vote levels in order for rules to be approved.

Role of CORE Work Groups

Work Group representatives are selected by each entity in its application to become a CORE Participant. Work Groups meet monthly by conference call during rule writing, or periodically during other critical times. Work Groups may also meet in-person as needed once per year. The role of Work Group participants is to vote on CORE rules assigned to their Work Group for referral to the Steering Committee.

Role of CORE Subgroups

Subgroup representatives are selected by each entity during an orientation call with CAQH CORE staff; participation in Subgroups is not required. Subgroups meet approximately every two weeks by conference call during rule writing, or periodically during other critical times. The role of Subgroup participants is to develop draft rules for review by the Work Groups; build consensus and refine rules via discussion, surveys, and straw polls. There is no formal voting at the Subgroup level.

There are three CORE Work Groups

1. Policy Work Group:

- Work Group Responsibility: Identifies policies and approaches CORE should or should not address and how and when the issues will be addressed as they relate to rule impact/development, certification and testing. If necessary, Policy Work Group recommendations are passed to one of the other two Work Groups or the Steering Committee for review/input
- Subgroups reporting to Policy Work Group:
 - Certification/Enforcement Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Develop recommended level of certification and enforcement policies
 - Long-Term Planning Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Review and provide feedback to Steering Committee and CORE participants on long-term vision

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2. *Technical Work Group:*

- Work Group Responsibility: Develops technical specifications and technical rules. In addition to developing rules for its assigned issues/activities, the Technical Work Group responds to issues from the Policy and Rules Work Groups that require technical evaluation or recommendations
- Subgroups reporting to Technical Work Group:
 - Connectivity & Security Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Develop a comprehensive “safe harbor” connectivity rule using existing industry-neutral standards, such as SOAP+WSDL, to facilitate connectivity standardization and interoperability across healthcare information exchange, including message envelope standards, base security and metadata requirements
 - The safe harbor nature of the connectivity rule allows entities to maintain other connections already in use, though entities must be able to support the CORE Connectivity Rule specifications
 - Certification/Testing Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Develops the Certification Test Suites for each of the Technical and Rules Work Group approved rules for each CORE Phase

3. *Rules Work Group*

- Work Group Responsibility: Writes the business rules related to transactions using required and non-required HIPAA standards, and industry neutral standards where appropriate. The Rules Work Group also reviews and approves many of the business-based CORE infrastructure-related rules (e.g., system availability) to be applied to transactions being addressed by CORE
- Subgroups reporting to Rules Work Group:
 - Eligibility/Benefits Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Develops business rules for the consistent use of transaction data content for the 270/271 beyond what may be required by HIPAA (e.g. patient financial liability) and application of “infrastructure” rules such as response time, system availability, and the uniform use of standard acknowledgements
 - Claim Status Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Develops business rules for the consistent use of transaction data content for the 276/277 beyond what by be required by HIPAA (e.g. uniform use of claim status category and claim status codes) and application of “infrastructure” rules such as response time, system availability, and the uniform use of standard acknowledgements
 - Health ID Card Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Responsibility: Develops a Health Insurance Identification Card Rule that addresses the uniform use of medical health insurance ID card; focus to date has been on *human-readable* only data elements of the WEDI Health ID Card Implementation Guide
 - Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) & Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) Subgroup:
 - Subgroup Dual Responsibility:
 - Recommend a layer of healthcare-specific EFT operating rules that complement the existing NACHA Operating Rules and address business rules and guidelines that are unique or intrinsic to healthcare claim payment transactions, including requirements for health plans and providers
 - Create operating rules for the ERA transaction that address well-recognized industry needs while also considering how to target the issues the Subgroup deems as highest priority; review the current Phase III CORE ERA draft operating rule, which was created by the CORE participants as a starting point for the industry