



SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE BRIEF

CORE Operating Rules Recommended to HHS for Federal Adoption

NCVHS Recommendation to HHS

On [June 30, 2023](#),¹ the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) – a public advisory body to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)– recommended a set of **new** and **updated** CORE Operating Rules for [federal mandate under HIPAA](#).² These rules modernize requirements related to the exchange of data for telehealth, prior authorization, complex benefit design and value-based payments.

If HHS supports the NCVHS recommendation, they will issue an Interim Final Rule (IFR) with a public comment period. Once HHS finalizes the rule, industry stakeholders have 25 months to meet the operating rule requirements.

CORE Operating Rules Recommended by NCVHS to HHS

This set of new and updated CORE Operating Rules promote interoperability and ease the burden of workarounds and manual processes.

“Healthcare is constantly evolving, and timely, up-to-date guidelines are critical to driving automated data exchange. By recommending these rules for adoption, NCVHS is helping to improve how payers and providers Exchange information related to Telehealth, prior authorization, benefit coverage and value-based payment. Ultimately, patients will benefit from more informed and timely care delivery.”

Linda Reed, SVP and CIO, St. Joseph’s Health, and CORE Board Chair

Summary of CORE Operating Rule Requirements



Data Content

UPDATED CORE Eligibility and Benefits (270/271) Data Content Rule³

- Expands required service type codes and requires use of procedure codes.
- Indicates requirements for prior authorization.
- Enhances required details about benefit structure and patient financial responsibility.
- Facilitates telehealth coverage through required inclusion of CMS Place of Service Codes.

NEW CORE Eligibility and Benefits (270/271) Single Patient Attribution Data Content Rule⁴

- Standardizes communication of a patient's attribution status to a provider under a value-based contract.



Infrastructure

Updated CORE Eligibility and Benefits (270/271),⁵ Claim Status (276/277),⁶ and Payment and Remittance (835)⁷ Infrastructure Rules

- Increases weekly system availability requirements to 90%.
- Aligns connectivity requirements with most current version of CORE Connectivity.
- Supports a version-agnostic Master Companion Guide Template.



Connectivity

UPDATED CORE Connectivity Rule vC4.0.0⁸

- Modernizes certification and authentication requirements, referencing X.509 and OAuth 2.0.
- Expands payload support to easily facilitate exchange of X12 v6020.
- Adds support for REST, strengthening application to HL7 FHIR-based APIs.

Opportunities for Engagement

The operating rules recommended for federal adoption represent an industry led, consensus-based process that included health plans, providers, government entities, vendors, clearinghouses, associations and others. Each requirement represents a step toward automation and the elimination of costly manual workarounds.

To become involved in future rule development processes, please contact core@caqh.org. Information and resources are available at caqh.org/core.

Endnotes

- 1 NCVHS (2023). NCVHS Recommendations on Updated and New CAQH CORE Operating Rules to Support Adopted HIPAA Standards. Retrieved from: https://ncvhs.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Recommendation-Letter-Updated-and-New-CAQH-CORE-Operating-Rules-June-30-2023_Redacted-508.pdf on September 10, 2023.
- 2 Public Law 111-148 111th Congress (2010). The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. (Section 1104. Administrative Simplification). Retrieved from: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-111publ148/pdf/PLAW-111publ148.pdf> on September 10, 2023.
- 3 CAQH CORE (2022). CAQH CORE Eligibility & Benefits (270/271) Data Content Rule Version EB.2.0. Retrieved from: https://www.caqh.org/sites/default/files/CAQH%20CORE%20Eligibility%20Benefits%20%28270_271%29%20Data%20Content%20Rule%20vEB2.0.pdf on September 10, 2023.
- 4 CAQH CORE (2022). CAQH CORE Eligibility & Benefits (270/271) Single Patient Attribution Data Content Rule vEB.1.0. Retrieved from: https://www.caqh.org/sites/default/files/core/CAQH%20CORE%20Eligibility%20Benefits%20270_271%20Single%20Patient%20Attribution%20Data%20Rule%20vEB.1.0.pdf on September 10, 2023.
- 5 CAQH CORE (2022). CAQH CORE Eligibility & Benefits (270/271) Infrastructure Rule vEB.2.0. Retrieved from: https://www.caqh.org/sites/default/files/CAQH%20CORE%20Eligibility%20%20Benefit%20%28270_271%29%20Infrastructure%20Rule%20vEB.2.0.pdf on September 10, 2023.
- 6 CAQH CORE (2022). CAQH CORE Claim Status (276/277) Infrastructure Rule Version CS.2.0. Retrieved from: https://www.caqh.org/sites/default/files/CAQH%20CORE%20Claim%20Status%20%28276_277%29%20Infrastructure%20Rule%20vCS2.0.pdf on September 10, 2023.
- 7 CAQH CORE (2022). CAQH CORE Payment & Remittance (835) Infrastructure Rule Version PR.2.0. Retrieved from: <https://www.caqh.org/sites/default/files/CAQH%20CORE%20Payment%20%20Remittance%20%28835%29%20Infrastructure%20Rule%20vPR2.0.pdf> on September 10, 2023.
- 8 CAQH CORE (2020). CAQH CORE Connectivity Rule vC4.0.0. Retrieved from: https://www.caqh.org/sites/default/files/core/CAQH%20CORE%20Connectivity%20Rule%20vC4.0.0_0.pdf on September 10, 2023.

Why Join the Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange?

Organized by CAQH, CORE is comprised of stakeholders across healthcare working together to accelerate automation and improve the exchange of healthcare business data.

By participating in CORE, organizations can play a critical role in the development of operating rules, modernizing business processes and setting the direction for the future of healthcare business processes.

For more information, email core@caqh.org.



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