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## Administrative Simplification With CAQH at Highmark

Presented by: Derek Flickinger & Conrad Lehman

#### About Us...

- Highmark provides millions of people with the security of quality health insurance.
- Our history of helping families and companies with their health insurance needs dates to the 1930s, when our predecessor companies were established to help
   Pennsylvania's residents pay for health care.



#### About Us (cont.)...

Highmark was created in 1996 by the consolidation of two Pennsylvania licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association — Pennsylvania Blue Shield (now Highmark Blue Shield) and Blue **Cross of Western Pennsylvania** (now Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield). We are now one of the largest health insurers in the United States.



#### About Us (cont.)...

#### Highmark Companies

- Highmark BlueCross BlueShield
- Highmark BlueShield
- Mountain State BlueCross BlueShield
- Keystone Health Plan West
- Highmark Health Insurance Company
- Highmark Senior Resources
- Health
  - Gateway Heath Plan\*
  - Industrial Medicine Consultants\*
  - Dental
    - United Concordia\*
- Vision
  - Davis Vision\*
  - Eye Care Centers of America\*
  - Viva\*
- Health Related Insurance
  - Highmark Insurance Group\*
  - Highmark Medicare Services\*



#### About Us (cont.)...

- Network Size
  - 66,144 Professionals
  - 1,937 Facilities
- Work Load
  - 10,000 provider maintenance updates per month
  - 7,360 initial credentialing applications (2009)
  - 11,012 re-credentialing applications (2009)



#### Where We Were...

Credentialing Application Types

- Provider Portal (Recred Only)
- Paper (Initial and Recred)
- Incomplete Applications led to additional development time
- Labor and paper intensive process
- Misplaced documentation
- Initial Cases required manual data entry and staff to answer the phones
- Overall case completion time was above desired levels



#### Where We Were (cont.)...

- Provider frustration/dissatisfaction
- Low BCBSA Provider Data Quality Scores
- Increased Administrative Costs
- Continued use of Paper credentialing applications prohibited automation that would allow for operational efficiencies to be realized



#### **Objectives...**

### SCORECARD

**Cost Savings** 

- Reduce FTE Staff
- Reduce Temporary Staff
- Reduce Paper Usage
- Reduce Mailing Costs
   Increase Productivity Increase
   Throughput

Decrease Processing Times

Improve Quality of Updates Reduce Number of Misplaced Documents

Improve Quality Scores

Increase Provider Satisfaction Scores





#### Outcome...



Cost Savings – Reduction of 3.2% in budget including:

- Elimination of 4.5 FTES
- Paper and printing costs
   Increased Productivity
  - Maintenance: 13% increase in productivity
  - Initial Credentialing: 24% increase in productivity
  - Re-credentialing: 10% increase in productivity

#### Outcome (cont.)...



#### Decreased turnaround time

- Initial credentialing decreased by 25.6 days (2008 compared to January - June 2010)
- Re-credentialing decreased by 28.6 days (2008 compared to January - June 2010)
- Maintenance decreased 3.1 days (2009 compared to July 2010)

#### Outcome (cont.)...



#### Improved Quality of Updates

- Maintenance improved 4%
- Credentialing improved 2%
- Improved provider satisfaction (2008 compared to 2009)
  - Increased score by 18 points on ease of credentialing process
  - Increased score by 5 points on ease of maintenance process

#### How We Did It...

## Phased Approach to utilize CAQH...

- Pilot
  - July 2007-Oct 2007
- Phase I
  - Jan 2008-April 2008
- Phase II
  - April 2008 Jan 2009
- Phase III
  - Nov 2008 June 2009



#### Pilot...

- Credentialed new providers in selected large groups that were already utilizing CAQH
- Manually added providers to roster utilizing CAQH user interface
- Used printed replica CAQH applications during credentialing process



#### Pilot – Challenges...

- Length of application
- Number of data elements not utilized in Highmark credentialing process
- Could not use manual roster process as long term solution



#### Phase I...

- Targeted existing CAQH users
- Manually transmitted file to CAQH to obtain CAQH IDs and to add providers to Highmark's Roster
- Automated CAQH ID Load to provider database



#### Phase I – Challenges...

- General unfamiliarity with CAQH Replication Application
- Cumbersome process to manually roster and enter CAQH ID into Highmark's system for initials



#### Phase II...

- Systematic Request CAQH ID and Rostering of Providers being credentialed in the next 3 months
- CAQH Database Replication and Automatic Population
- CAQH Viewer
- Automatic updates to credentialing system
  - Processing state
  - Attestation Date
  - Image replica App



#### **CAQH Viewer – Attestation List**



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Practitioner								
<ul> <li>→ Profile</li> <li>→ Credentialing Status</li> <li>→ CAQH Viewer</li> </ul>	CAQH ID	Highmark ID- CPR Status	SSN (NPI)	Nar	me Provider Type / Sp	Attest Date ecialty Attest ID Change Summary		
Vendor → Profile	54321000	000430222-ACTIVE	123-45-6789 (2358697409)	Rogers, Fred B	DO / Family Medicine	07/02/2010 <u>11565356</u> <u>Change Summary</u>		
<ul> <li>Contracting</li> <li>Site Visit</li> </ul>	54321000	000430222-ACTIVE	123-45-6789 (2358697409)	Rogers, Fred B	DO / Family Medicine	03/16/2010 <u>10753226</u> <u>Change Summary</u>		
Queues → NPDB Transmit	54321000	000430222-ACTIVE	123-45-6789 (2358697409)	Rogers, Fred B	DO / Family Medicine	12/01/2009 <u>9984861</u> <u>Change Summary</u>		
Utilities → NPI Validator → Log4j Configuration								

+ Document PDF Loader

→ Table Maintenance

+ Roster Generation

Reports

PDS Letter System

Provider Contracts Document Search

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#### CAQH Viewer – Attestation Profile

Lebanon Valley College

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Annville, PA 17003



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Personal Info and Professional I	DS [Back to Top]						
	hmark ID: 000430222 QH ID: 54321000						
	est ID: 11565356						
Birth Date: 02/26/1946 Ger	nder: Male						
Hospital Based: No Oth	ner Names: No						
Languages: English							
Professional IDs and Other ID Numbers							
Type Number State Expir	ation						
NPI 2358697409							
SSN 123456789							
UPIN B12345							
Medicare RO430222							
DEA BS1234567 02/29/							
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Education and Training [Back to Top]							
Name	Address City, State Zip	Start/Stop	Institution Type	Department / Specialty	Degree Awarded	Education / Training Completed at this Inst	titution
	North Broad Street	08/01/1978		Department / Specialty	-		indition
Temple University	Philadelphia, PA 19140	06/01/1980	Graduate School		MBA	Yes	
	4170 City Avenue	09/01/1002					
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	4170 City Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19131	08/01/1982 06/01/1986	Medical School		DO	Yes	
Pinnaclehealth at Comm Hosp	4300 Londonderry Road	07/01/1986	Internship/Residency	Family Practice		Yes	
- Amademodian de Comminidap	Harrisburg, PA 17109	06/01/1988	ancernanip/recordency	ramity reddoo		103	

Undergraduate School

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**a** 100%

Yes

#### Phase II – Challenges...

#### • Data Mapping

- From:
  - CAQH Replica Application
  - West Virginia State Mandated Application
  - Ohio State Mandated Application
- To:
  - CAQH Replica Database
- Re-attestation without Data Changes
  - CAQH Replica Application and supporting attestation data not
  - transmitted
- Inventory Volumes
  - Quick turn-around times on receipt of applications causes spike in inventory



#### Phase II – Challenges (cont.)...



 Ability to view Highmark Systems, view CAQH Viewer and perform primary source verifications on one monitor



#### Phase III...

#### CAQH Portal

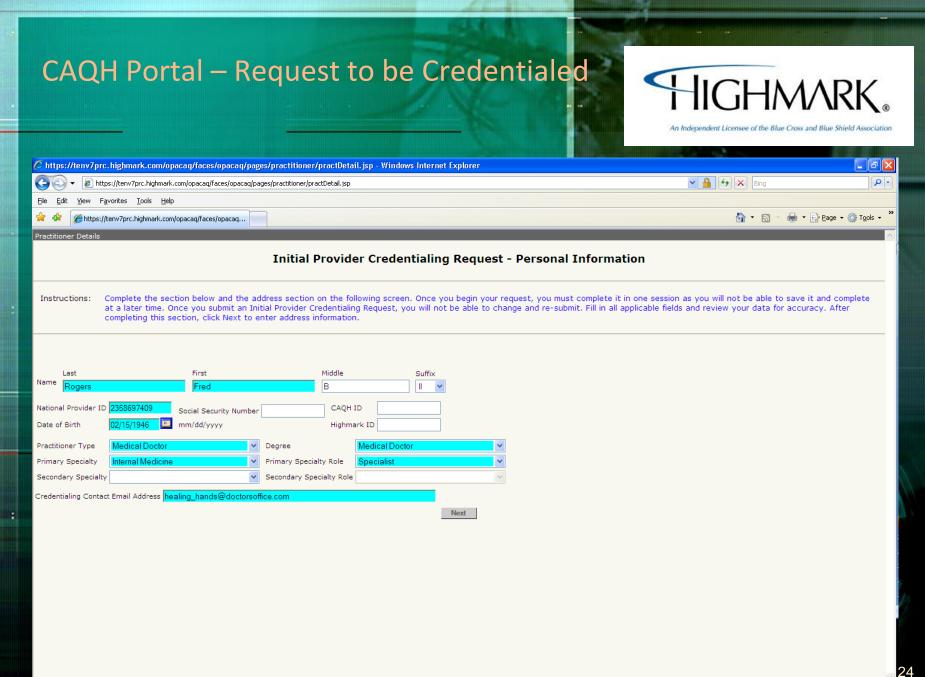
- Creation of shell provider in provider database
- Creation of initial credentialing case in credentialing system
- Automatic rostering of new provider
- Automatic load of newly assigned CAQH id in provider database
- Systematic load of selected data to provider database



#### Phase III (cont.)...

- Paperless initiative
  - Dual Monitors
  - Paper imaged to work queues
  - Desktop in-bound/out-bound faxing
  - Development Letters (with attachments) sent automatically via e-mail or fax with a copy going to image for audit





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#### CAQH Portal – Request to be Credentialed



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Practitioner Deta	is > Address Details		~				
	Initial Provider Credentialing Request - Primary Practice Location & Credentialing Address Information						
Instructions:	Complete the section below. Once you begin your request, you must complete it in one session as you will not be able to save it a Provider Credentialing Request, you will not be able to change and re-submit. Fill in all applicable fields and review your data for a your initial credentialing request. Your request will be submitted electronically and you will receive a confirmation message.						
Degree: National Provider Highmark ID:	Credentialing Contact Email Address: healing_hands@doctorsoffice.com Degree: MD Date of Birth: 02/15/1946 National Provider ID: 2358697409 Social Security Number:						
Primary Practice	Location Address						
Building/Location							
Street	1800 Center Street						
Suite/Room	Take Care Clinic						
City/State/Zip/E	xt Camp Hill PA 🖌 17089 _ 0001						
Credentialing Mai	ing Address 🗌 Check here if Credentialing Mailing Address is same as Primary Practice Location						
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Street	PO Box 890089						
Suite/Room							
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Phone Number	717 - 302 - 0000 Ext. 5555						
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#### CAQH Portal – Request to be Credentialed



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Practitioner Details > Confirmation						
Initial Provider Credentialing Request - Confirmation						
Instructions: Your Initial Provider Credentialing Request has been received. You may print this confirmation page for your records. Please allow 1 with additional information and instructions will be sent to the Credentialing Contact Email address supplied on your request. This e completed and returned to complete your Credentialing Application. (In certain instances, this communication may be sent via post request instead of via email)	email may include additional documents which must be					
Practitioner:       Rogers, Fred B         Credentialing Contact Email Address:       healing_hands@doctorsoffice.com         Degree:       MD       Date of Birth:       02/15/1946         National Provider ID:       2358697409       Social Security Number:         Highmark ID:       CAQH ID:         Practitioner Type:       Medical Doctor       Frimary Specialty/Role:						
Primary Practice Location Address 1800 Center Street, Take Care Clinic , Camp Hill, PA 17089-0001						
Credentialing Mailing Address PO Box 890089, Camp Hill, PA 17089-0000 717-302-0000 x5555						

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#### CAQH Portal – Email with Agreements



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ProvCredMailDelv@highmark.com	To:	healing_hands@doctorsoffice.com
07/16/2010 05:55 AM	cc	

Subject: Initial Credentialing Request—CAQH Provider

#### Dear Fred B Rogers II, MD

Thank you for requesting information on Highmark's credentialed networks. Highmark continually seeks ways to make its network credentialing process easier for physicians and allied health care providers. As part of these efforts Highmark implemented a standardized national online credentialing system that further streamlines the credentialing process. Please visit <u>www.caqh.org</u> and login to the Universal Credentialing <u>DataSource</u> using CAQH ID 12092566 to complete and/or review and attest to your CAQH Application. Be sure to add Highmark as an authorized plan, or grant global authorization.

Additional documentation is required in order to complete Highmark credentialing. Listed below are links to the forms necessary to complete this process. Please fax the requested information to: 1-800-236-8641, or mail to:

Provider Information Management

P.O. Box \$9\$842

Camp Hill, PA 17089-8842

Highmark Mid-Level Practitioner Agreement (FEP)

https://www.highmarkblueshield.com/health/pdfs/forms/hbs-280.pdf

PremierBlue Shield Pref Prov Agrmnt PCP

https://www.highmarkhluachiald.com/haalth/ndfe/formethhe DBS ndf

#### Phase III – Challenges...

- Manual intervention needed for providers requesting a CAQH ID but already in the provider database
- Inconsistent data format / quality of data being used for systematic load of data into provider database
- Highmark required data elements not required on UPD applications
- Unfamiliarity with new software
- Re-training entire staff
- Adjusting to new concept of paperless



#### System Overview...



CAQH - UPD Roster Add/Delete ASCII Data Files/Images Update CAQH ID CAQH Loca Cop Update Case Info Corporate Provder Respitory Update App and Attest (CPR) Cred Request Return *logule* Add New Provider and Cred Case **Cred Specialist** 100 Initial SignUp HC3 Web App <u>Email – CAQH</u> ID (with CAQH **Provider Portal** Viewer) **Provider Office** 

#### **Technologies Leveraged...**

- IBM Websphere App Server
- IBM Rational Developer
- DB2 (database)
- IBM Content Manager
- Oracle Istream (Calligo)
- Biscom FAXCOM Fax Server



#### What's Next...

- Adjustments to recred cycle
- Fully transition to CAQH
- Data Integration: feed to provider database
- Enhance CAQH Portal to accommodate providers already in the provider database
- Expand CAQH Portal to providers located within the Mtn State service area





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#### ??? QUESTIONS ???

# The End

Thank You !

