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**MORE THAN 800,000 PHYSICIANS AND ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
NOW USING THE UNIVERSAL PROVIDER DATASOURCE TO SAVE \$92  
MILLION PER YEAR IN ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS**

*Data Refresh Every 120 Days Makes UPD One of the Most Reliable and Trusted  
Provider Resources Nationwide*

WASHINGTON, DC (March 17, 2010) – CAQH® announced today that more than 800,000 physicians and other healthcare professionals are actively engaged in the voluntary industry-wide effort to reduce excessive paperwork and associated costs by using its online Universal Provider Datasource® (UPD).

UPD is a service that lets providers electronically submit and update the standard training, experience and practice information that is required by health plan networks and hospital medical staffs for credentialing, claims administration, provider directory listings and other data-driven processes. Providers registered with UPD no longer have to fill out an average of 10 to 15 paper applications per year. Instead they can complete a single, online form. The data is entered into a secure, centralized database that offers providers complete control of their information and the ability to actively manage and distribute updates.

The annual savings attributable to the UPD are more than \$92 million, and environmental savings are estimated at 82.7 million pieces of paper (the equivalent of 9,900 trees).

“What makes this achievement significant is that the majority of physicians across the United States trust and rely upon the Universal Provider Datasource,” said William F. Jessee, MD, FACMPE, Medical Group Management Association president and CEO. “UPD has eliminated redundant paperwork and has given physicians direct and continuous control of their information in a standardized and widely accepted platform.”

The number of providers using UPD has also contributed to 12 states, and the District of Columbia, adopting the UPD form as their mandated or designated provider credentialing form: Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Vermont.

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UPD – 800,000/2

“Physicians confirm their self-reported UPD information three times per year, ensuring the data we have on file for them is accurate and complete,” said Robin Thomashauer, CAQH executive director. “This continuous interaction with UPD makes its data quality invaluable to participating health plans, hospitals and state Medicaid agencies. UPD is assisting in their efforts to simplify the labor intensive and costly provider data collection process.”

UPD is a proven solution that is free to providers and used by more than 550 healthcare organizations nationwide. UPD can also support the development of state-level interoperable healthcare information exchanges and reduce operating costs while creating a more provider-friendly business environment.

### **About the Universal Provider Datasource**

CAQH launched UPD to enable providers and other health professionals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to submit required information for credentialing and other purposes. The online service is the industry standard for collecting provider data used in credentialing, claims administration, quality assurance, emergency response, member services and more. UPD simplifies the initial provider application and recredentialing processes. More than 800,000 providers are registered in the database and UPD has over 550 participating organizations. All data submitted by providers through the UPD service is maintained by CAQH in a state-of-the-art data center and can only be accessed by the registrant and authorized hospitals, health plans and other healthcare organizations. UPD complements the direction being taken by the Medicaid Information Technology Architecture (MITA), which is being built to improve administrative processes for Medicaid programs. Visit [www.caqh.org/ucd.php](http://www.caqh.org/ucd.php) for more information.

### **About CAQH**

CAQH, a nonprofit alliance of health plans and trade associations, serves as a catalyst for healthcare industry collaboration on initiatives that simplify and streamline healthcare administration. CAQH solutions help promote quality interactions between plans, providers and other stakeholders, reduce costs and frustrations associated with healthcare administration, facilitate administrative healthcare information exchange, and encourage administrative and clinical data integration. Visit <http://www.caqh.org> for more information.

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