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CAQH Receives WEDI Leadership in Technology Award

WASHINGTON, DC – October 25, 2011 – CAQH was recognized today by the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) for its leadership in initiatives that have led to the advancement of electronic delivery of information and eCommerce technology in healthcare.

The WEDI Leadership in Technology Award honors achievements that contribute significantly to the progression of the WEDI mission and was accepted by Robin Thomashauer, Executive Director of CAQH, during the WEDI Fall Conference held in Baltimore. The National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) was also presented with the award.

"CAQH has a long history of being a catalyst for building and facilitating healthcare industry initiatives that encourage electronic administrative solutions, helping to reduce costs and streamline processes for providers," Thomashauer said. "It is an honor for CAQH to be recognized for these efforts by the WEDI Board and membership."

WEDI is a broad-based healthcare industry coalition that brings together a consortium of leaders within the healthcare industry to identify practical strategies for reducing administrative costs in healthcare through the implementation of EDI. The mission of the organization is to provide leadership and guidance to healthcare stakeholders on how to use and leverage collective industry knowledge, expertise and information resources to improve the quality, affordability and availability of healthcare.

Award winners were selected by the WEDI Board of Directors, based on recommendations from a cross-discipline jury drawn from the WEDI membership.

For over a decade, CAQH efforts have focused on simplifying healthcare administration through the adoption of electronic solutions. The CAQH Universal Provider Datasource[®] (<u>UPD</u>[®]) streamlines provider data collection for credentialing and other purposes for over 965,000 providers and more than 600 organizations in the U.S. The CAQH Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange[®] (<u>CORE</u>[®]) is a multistakeholder collaboration that develops operating rules to streamline administrative transactions.

Many of the CAQH CORE Phase I and II operating rules were recently included by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the interim final rule (CMS-0032-IFC) under Section 1104 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), which requires health plans to comply with operating rules for eligibility and claim status transactions by January 1, 2013.

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CAQH CORE Presentation at the WEDI Fall Conference

Gwendolyn Lohse, Deputy Director and CORE Managing Director, CAQH, is scheduled to serve as a panelist during the session: *ACA Operating Rules Regulatory Implementation Status and the Pathway to Achieving ROI*, at the WEDI conference on Thursday, October 27 at 9:30 am. The panel will discuss the current and future status of operating rules, as well as how the industry can prepare to adopt operating rules to achieve a positive return on investment.

About CAQH

CAQH, a nonprofit alliance of health plans and associations, is a catalyst for industry collaboration that simplifies healthcare administration. CAQH solutions, including UPD and CORE, reduce costs and frustrations associated with healthcare administration, facilitate healthcare information exchange, and encourage administrative and clinical data integration. Visit www.caqh.org for more information.

