

**CAQH Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE)
Rules Work Group Tiger Team Call to Address NCVHS Recommendations
Summary of Thursday, November 11, 2010, and Friday, November 12, 2010 12:00 – 01:30 PM ET Conference Calls**

Co-Chairs: Noam Nahary, Montefiore Medical Center, Dale Schulz, WellPoint, and Denise Oviatt, RelayHealth

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Executive Summary

On September 30th, NCVHS recommended the Phase I and II CORE operating rules to fulfill the federal mandate for non-retail pharmacy eligibility and claim status operating rules as required by Section 1104 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. CAQH CORE was encouraged by NCVHS to consider potential enhancements to the CORE Phase I and II operating rules before the December NCVHS meeting.

CAQH staff collected suggestions for enhancements from CORE and non-CORE participants, including the states, and distributed an on-line survey on 11/09/10 outlining the detailed list of enhancements; given the timeframe, a focus was placed on enhancements that are already well developed. Both CORE participants and non-participating organizations were asked to vote for, or against, inclusion of each enhancement, understanding both the timeframe and existing Phase I and II Rules scope. Survey respondents also were provided the opportunity to write-in additional enhancements to be considered. (**Note:** A brief summary of the final survey results is available [HERE](#).)

Two identical CORE Rules Work Group “Tiger Team” calls were held on 11/11/10 and 11/12/10 to discuss the survey findings and then come to consensus on which enhancements were most feasible for a CORE Work Group consideration. Over 60 organizations joined these calls, representing a mix of public/private, providers, health plans, associations, states, vendors, SDOs, and others. Call participants were reminded that any enhancements to the CORE rules would need to be reviewed via the CORE rule review process. Detailed summaries of the [11/11/10](#) and [11/12/10](#) calls are available on the CAQH calendar and via the links provided.

(**Note:** Any organization is welcome to [join CORE](#). All CORE rules are decided by the CORE participating organizations via a voting process.)

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High-Level Results

Rule Area	Enhancements Proposed in Survey	Total Write-ins ^a	Results from Conference Calls (which considered survey result)		
			Strong Support to Consider	Interest to Consider	Do <u>Not</u> Pursue for Immediate Enhancements ^{b,c}
Eligibility	9	5	2	2	5
Claim status	5	0	4	1	0
TOTAL	14	5	6	3	5

NOTE:

- a. Respondents were provided the ability to specify (write-in) “other” potential requirements not included in survey. The total write-in’s represent potential requirements not already addressed in survey items and do not include comments that may have been submitted relative to a respondent position.
- b. Criteria applied; participants on both calls agreed to the following:
 - i. Do not pursue write-in’s given there is already a significant amount of requirements to consider.
 - ii. Do not consider enhancements that do not have sufficient research and industry vetting
- c. Call participants agreed enhancements not included in recommendation for enhanced Phase II should be considered in future CORE Phases due to their importance.

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Itemized Breakdown

Note: *Italicized* enhancements indicate draft Phase III rules approved by Rules Work Group for voting in summer 2010

Strong Support to Consider	Interest to Consider	<i>Not Pursue for Immediate Enhancements</i> ²
Eligibility/Benefits (From 9 Total Potential Enhancements)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acknowledgements: The draft CORE Phase III discussions supported replacing the X12N 997 Functional Acknowledgement with the 999</i> • <i>Additional service type codes (STC) and related patient financial reporting including out of pocket information (base and YTD, plan and benefit-specific)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft WEDI/X12 Companion Guide • Establish uniform search/match logic (based upon requirements in Minnesota) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STC grouping requirements for a 271 response to an explicit inquiry • Refinement of requirements for reporting discretionary, carve-out, and sensitive benefits • Limit the number of STCs that can be submitted in an explicit 270 inquiry/Limit the number of STCs that can be returned in a 271 response • Require the 271 response to include the code indicating the type of health plan in the eligibility/benefits segment • Require a 271 response to include provider network identification information
Claims Status (From 5 Total Potential Enhancements)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acknowledge v5010 837 claim submissions with a 277CA specifying whether the claim(s) were accepted, accepted with errors or rejected</i> • <i>Uniform use of claim status category & claim status codes</i> • <i>Acknowledgements: The draft CORE Phase III discussions supported replacing the X12N 997 Functional Acknowledgement with the 999</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintain claim history for minimum of 24 months from time claim enters adjudication systems</i>¹ • Draft WEDI/X12 Companion Guide 	

¹ Participants approved inclusion of the 24 month history requirement on 11/11/10; however participants on the 11/12/10 call did not reach agreement on implementing this rule.

² Note: Call participants agreed enhancements not included in recommendation for enhanced Phase II should be considered in future CORE Phases due to their importance.

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Next Steps

The Rules Work Group will hold a set of calls (11/23, 11/30, 12/07/10) as part of the established CAQH CORE review process. This process will be used to approve any potential rule enhancements that the CORE Rules Work Group will recommend to the CORE participants. The goals of these calls will be to:

- Review and agree on “short list” of potential Phase I & II enhancements and content of Rules Work Group vote (rules must be completed to be voted on)
- Review Work Group vote results and determine if next step in CORE process can occur

Meeting the NCVHS charge is dependent upon achieving these milestones as the CORE process must be followed. The Technical Work Group will also be meeting to review minor draft enhancement to the CORE Phase II Connectivity rule. These CORE Work Group calls are open to CORE-participants only. Should any non-CORE trading partners want to join these discussions, please refer to the [CAQH CORE participation web page](#) or contact a CAQH staff member. Any organization can join CORE.

On December 3rd, CAQH will provide NCVHS with an update on the progress to date in completing the above steps pertaining to potential enhancements to the CORE Phase I and Phase II rules.

NOTE: CORE rule writing and certifications that are voluntary (beyond mandate) will continue to move forward , therefore, any proposed enhancements that is not included in NCVHS review will be strongly considered by the next set of CORE rules.