



Phase III CAQH CORE 304 Testing Policy  
version 3.0.0 January 2013

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**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- *The CORE testing policy will be used to gain CORE Certification only; it does not outline trading partner implementation interoperability testing activities.*
- *Third parties that have become CAQH CORE-authorized certification testing entities through a standard CORE evaluation process will be used by interested parties to test for CAQH CORE Operating Rules compliance. CAQH CORE will authorize any testing entity that meets CAQH CORE's testing entity criteria. A key criterion in becoming a CAQH CORE-authorized testing entity will be that the entity is capable of testing for all Phase I, Phase II and Phase III CAQH CORE Operating Rules.*
- *A prerequisite for obtaining a stakeholder-specific CORE-certified Seal will be the successful completion of a stakeholder-specific CORE Certification Test Suite, which will be demonstrated through proper documentation from a CAQH CORE-authorized testing entity.*
- *All parties essential to the success of the transactions will be addressed in the CORE Certification testing process: providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and vendors. CORE Certification testing will vary by stakeholder type, e.g., provider, health plan, clearinghouses, vendors. Associations, medical societies and the like will not undergo certification testing as they are endorsers of CAQH CORE rather than certified entities.*
- *The CORE Certification testing protocol will be scoped only to demonstrate conformance with CAQH CORE Operating Rules, and not overall compliance with HIPAA; however, each entity submitting an application for CORE Certification will sign a statement attesting that it is HIPAA compliant to the best of its knowledge.*

**POLICY**

**Section 1: Key Steps**

**Subsection 1.1: Step 1: CORE Pre-Certification, Self-Testing**

- To prepare for certification, entities seeking CORE Certification can review rules and conduct internal testing as they see appropriate.

**Subsection 1.2: Step 2: CORE Certification Testing Process**

- A CAQH CORE-authorized certification testing entity performs testing with an entity seeking CORE Certification based upon Phase III CAQH CORE testing criteria specific to that entity's stakeholder type.
- Entities seeking CORE Certification can work with the CAQH CORE-authorized testing entity of their choice to test and/or use a testing website developed by one or more of the companies to conduct their Phase III CORE Certification testing. If a website approach is taken, individual company testing results would not be shared publicly. The CORE Certification Test Suite includes scenario-based testing and expected outcomes.

**Subsection 1.3: Step 3: CAQH CORE-Authorized Testing Vendor Verifies Testing Completion**

- CAQH CORE-authorized Testing Vendor verifies, with documentation, that an entity seeking CORE Certification has successfully completed testing; entity can apply to CAQH CORE to obtain the CORE Seal Certification by submitting documentation to CAQH CORE. (See Phase III CAQH CORE 302 Certification Policy version 3.0.0.)

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**Subsection 1.4: Step 4: Certification Testing Appeals Process**

- Prior to any appeal being submitted, it is assumed efforts have already been taken to try to resolve the issue privately between an entity seeking certification and the CAQH CORE-authorized testing entity, and such efforts have not succeeded.
- In the event an entity seeking CORE Certification is not satisfied with its testing results, it will be permitted to file a written appeal of the results to CORE, under the guidance of the Enforcement Committee (See Phase III CAQH CORE 305 Enforcement Policy version 3.0.0.)
- CAQH CORE will have 20 business days to investigate the issue. If the appeal is deemed valid, CAQH CORE will ask the CAQH CORE-authorized Testing Vendor to re-test the test scripts in question within 21 business days of request.