



CAQH CORE
Value-based
Payments
Initiative: Industry
Developing
Practical Solutions

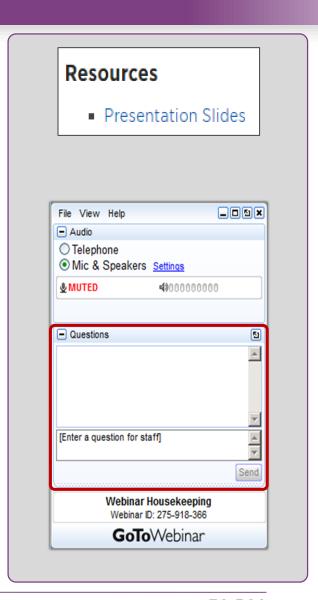
October 4, 2019

# Logistics

# Presentation Slides and How to Participate in Today's Session

- You can download the presentation slides at www.caqh.org/core/events after the webinar.
- Click on the listing for today's event, then scroll to the bottom to find the Resources section for a PDF version of the presentation slides.
- A copy of the slides and the webinar recording will be emailed to all attendees and registrants in the next 1-2 business days.

 Questions can be submitted at any time using the Questions panel on the GoToWebinar dashboard.





# **CAQH CORE Series on Value-based Payments**

This webinar is the eleventh in an ongoing educational series from CAQH CORE on industry adoption of value-based payments and the operational challenges inherent in this transition.

\$

We would like to thank our speaker:

Troy Smith, Vice President, Blue Cross North Carolina

# **Session Outline**

- Overview of CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Initiative
- CAQH CORE Value-based Payments Advisory Group
- Opportunity Area Focus: Patient-Provider Attribution
- How to Engage

# CAQH CORE Value-based Payments (VBP) Initiative

**Erin Weber** Director, CAQH CORE



# **CAQH CORE Mission/Vision & Industry Role**

Industry-led, CAQH CORE Participants include healthcare providers, health plans, vendors, government entities, associations and standard-setting organizations. Health plans participating in CAQH CORE represent **75 percent of the insured US population**.

### MISSION

Drive the creation and adoption of healthcare operating rules that **support** standards, accelerate interoperability and align administrative and clinical activities among providers, payers and consumers.

### **VISION**

An **industry-wide facilitator** of a trusted, simple and sustainable healthcare data exchange that evolves and aligns with market needs.

### **DESIGNATION**

CAQH CORE is the national operating rule author to improve the efficiency, accuracy and effectiveness of industry-driven business transactions. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) designated CAQH CORE as the author of national operating rules for the HIPAA-covered administrative transactions.

### **INDUSTRY ROLE**

**Develop business rules to help industry** effectively and efficiently use electronic standards while remaining technology- and standard-agnostic.

# CAQH CORE BOARD

**Multi-stakeholder.** Members include health plans, providers (some of which are appointed by associations such as the AHA, AMA, MGMA), vendors, and government entities. Advisors to the Board include SDOs (X12, HL7, NACHA, NCPDP) and WEDI.



# What are Operating Rules?

**Operating Rules** are the necessary business rules and guidelines for the electronic exchange of information that are not defined by a standard or its implementation specifications as adopted.

Industry Use Case	Standard	Operating Rule
Healthcare	Providers and health plans must use the ASC X12 v5010 270/271 Eligibility Request and Response transaction to exchange patient eligibility information.	When using the eligibility transaction, health plans must return patient financial information including copay and deductible in real-time.
Finance	Financial organizations must use ASC X9 standards in all ATM transactions with their clientele, standardizing layout, data content and messaging.	Financial organizations must use NACHA, the Electronic Payments Association, and the Federal Reserve operating rules for every automated clearinghouse (ACH) Transaction which allows consumers to use any debit card in any ATM around the world regardless of bank affiliation.

Operating Rules <u>do not</u> specify whether or how a payer/provider structures a business process supported by an electronic transaction. For example, operating rules do not specify how a patient should be attributed to a provider's population in a value-based payment arrangement; if an attribution methodology is used, operating rules could specify how attribution status is electronically exchanged.

# **CAQH CORE Rule Development**

From Identifying Opportunities to Federal Mandate

### **Identify Opportunities**

Environmental Scans, Industry
Surveys, and Advisory Groups are
used to research opportunities for
a potential rule.

# CAQH CORE Writes Letter to NCVHS

**CAQH CORE writes a letter to NCVHS** explaining the industry need for the operating rules along with the CORE Board approved rules.

### **Develop Rule Requirements**

Rule Writing Groups including subgroups and workgroups develop requirements. New groups form as CAQH CORE rule writing focus changes. Pilots and ROI assessment support quicker and broader market adoption.

# NCVHS Makes Recommendation to HHS

NCVHS sends a letter to the Secretary regarding industry feedback given at the hearing. **NCVHS** recommends whether the operating rules should be mandated.

### **Ballot Rules**

Full CAQH CORE Voting
Organizations vote on the
proposed rule(s). Once CAQH
CORE Participants have achieved
quorum and approval levels, the
CAQH CORE Board will vote for
final approval.

# Expedited Interim Final Rule Making

HHS issues Interim Final Rule (IFR) to the industry with a 60-day open comment period. With no major objections, HHS adopts the final rule and mandates the operating rules.\*

Once HHS mandates an operating rule industry is given 25 months to implement and adopt new rules.

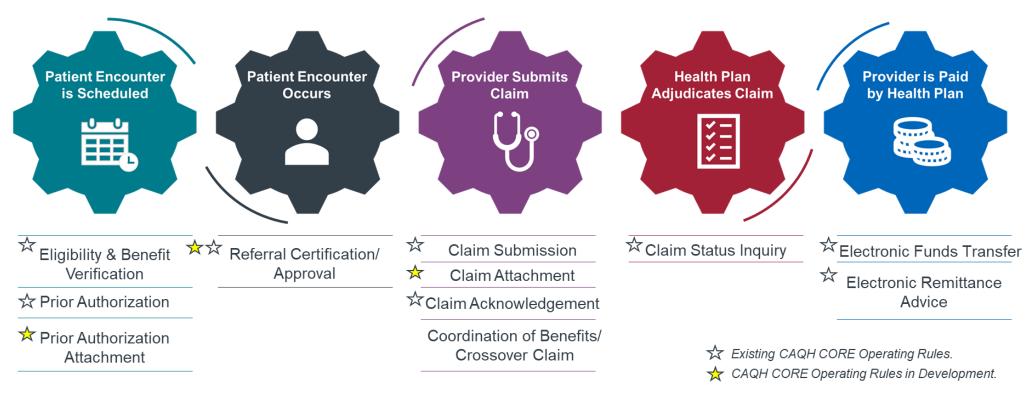
\*HHS has the authority to judge whether comments are substantial and whether changes should be made to the final rule.



# **CAQH CORE Operating Rules**

# Supporting the Revenue Cycle Workflow

The healthcare revenue cycle and the provider and health plan workflows built to support it, were created in a fee-for-service (FFS) healthcare environment. Since 2005, CAQH CORE has developed operating rules to support these workflows in the electronic exchange of information.



In the FFS healthcare system, claims are reimbursed for the services provided regardless of the total cost of patient care or the quality of care provided. However, this concept has evolved over the past several years.

# Shift from Fee for Service to Value-based Care

Value-based care is a healthcare delivery model in which providers are paid based on patient health outcomes. (NEJM Catalyst, 2018)

- As value focuses on quality of care and cost, many believe valuebased payment has the power to improve U.S. mortality and morbidity rates and change the trajectory of national health expenditures.
- From 2015 to 2017, the number of commercial payers engaging in some type of value-based care has doubled to 24 percent. (HFMA, 2018)

**Value-based payment** is a strategy used by purchasers to promote quality and value of health care services.

(Healthcare Incentives Improvement Institute, 2013)

**60%** of healthcare dollars are linked to value of care delivered.



VBP models are already accruing cost-savings of **5.6%** with equal or better care results.

(Change Healthcare, 2019)

# The Quadruple Aim



57% of provider
 executives do not believe
 they have data and tools to
 be successful under VBP.

(Quest Diagnostics, 2018)



(HCP LAN, 2018)

# **CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Initiative**

Identifying a Need

For over a decade, stakeholders have collaborated through CAQH CORE to bring consistency to the fee-for-service healthcare system.

### **Industry Shift**



CAQH CORE Board recognized the importance of valuebased payments (VBP).

Agreed that **CAQH CORE must expand its scope** to driving out unnecessary costs and inefficiencies from information exchange in both fee-for-service and VBP.

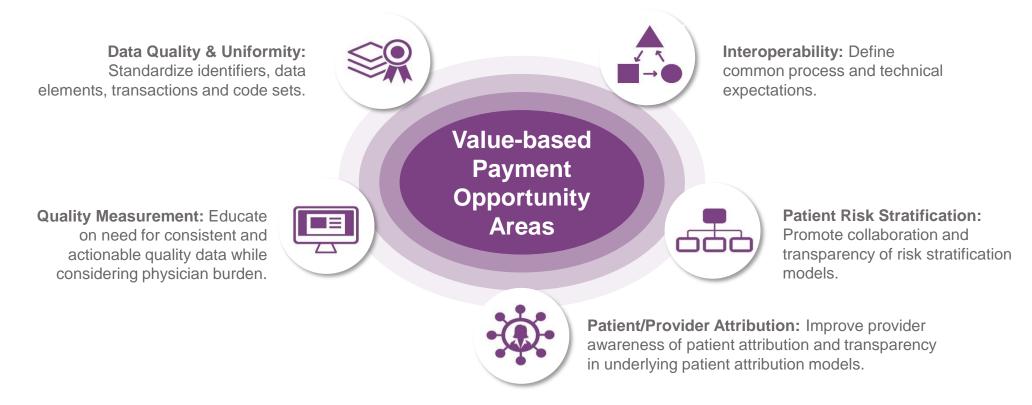
### **Alignment & Collaboration**



Healthcare stakeholders must act decisively and collaboratively to prevent VBP from confronting the administrative roadblocks once encountered in fee-for-service. CAQH CORE has expertise in developing industry solutions.

# **Streamlining Adoption of Value-Based Payments**

CAQH CORE conducted over two years of research and identified five opportunity areas in the industry that could smooth the implementation of value-based payments. Stakeholders must act decisively and collaboratively to prevent value-based payment from confronting the administrative roadblocks once encountered in fee-for-service.



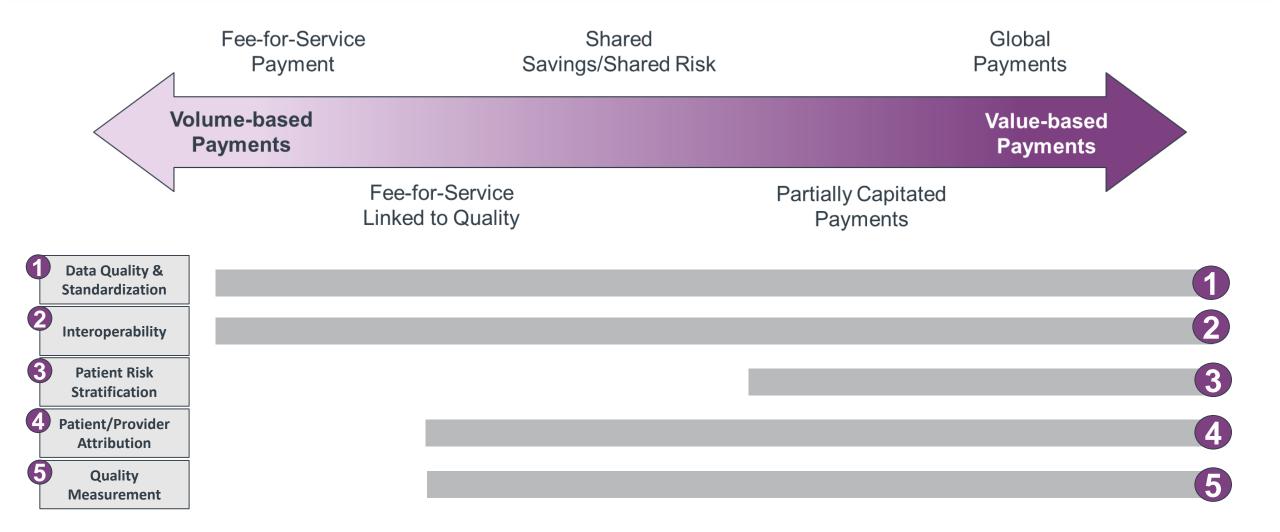
### **CAQH CORE Vision**

A common infrastructure that drives adoption of value-based payment models by reducing administrative burden, improving information exchange and enhancing transparency across clinical and administrative verticals.



# **CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Initiative**

### Continuum of VBP Models



# CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Initiative CAQH CORE VBP Advisory Group

In early 2019, CAQH CORE launched the VBP Advisory Group made up of industry executives and thought-leaders. These participants were charged with prioritizing opportunity areas for CAQH CORE rule development action (e.g. subgroup or pilot).

























The Advisory group began with CAQH CORE research of the five categories in VBP requiring stakeholder collaboration and looked at list of 19 opportunity areas to prioritize for operating rule development.

# **CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Initiative**

Special Thanks to Our Speaker

**Troy Smith**Vice President



# **Polling Question #1**

What percentage of your business falls under a value-based payment initiative/contract?

- 0 − 25%?
- **25%-50%?**
- **•** 50%-75%?
- **75%-100%?**
- N/A

# CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Advisory Group

**Troy Smith** Vice President, BCBSNC



# Sample Opportunities for Administrative Simplification in VBP

Provider often does not know if a patient is attributed to them until after care is delivered.

Provider is not always aware of quality metrics required by patient's specific health plan. Provider is unclear as to what additional documentation is required to fulfill contractual obligations.

Claim cannot convey pertinent clinical and health information not related to a service provided during visit. Remittance advice does not fully explain how provider payment relates to VBP arrangements (e.g. were quality metrics met?).











**Opportunity:** Return patient attribution information when provider submits an eligibility check.

Opportunity: Return requirements for quality measure reporting or specific measure gaps when provider submits eligibility check.

Opportunity: Upon submission of a healthcare claim, health plan immediately returns necessary additional documentation.

Opportunity: Standardize additional documentation, data content, format, and method of transfer for critical clinical information that is non-service related.

Opportunity: Outline provider next steps in remittance advice to ensure full payment at the end of the fiscal year, e.g. reporting requirements. Also specify in remittance advice whether performance metrics met.



# Value-based Payments Advisory Group

### Overview

This Advisory Group began in February as an industry collaboration to guide the development of common approaches for the exchange of data in VBP in order to reduce administrative burden and improve the patient experience of care. The Advisory Group:



Discussed the FFS revenue cycle workflow and pain points for those participating in VBP.



Reviewed a list of 19 draft opportunity areas to address pain points and relieve administrative burden as related to VBP which were condensed to 15.



Rated support of opportunity areas on a Likert scale from "Strongly Do Not Support" to "Strongly Support".



Ranked the opportunity areas in order of priority for a CAQH CORE Rule Development Group to pursue. Topics 1, 4, 7, 8, and 11 were selected to move forward.

ID	Challenge	Opportunity Area Example
1.	Attribution Status	Health Plan electronically shares patient attribution status with provider at time or eligibility check.
2.	Attribution Method	Health Plan shares information on the attribution methodology with provider at time of eligibility check.
3.	Type of Benefit Plan/VBP Contract Transparency	Health Plan shares information on type of plan/contract patient is enrolled in at time of eligibility check.
4.	Patient Risk Identification	Stakeholders agree upon standards for health plans and providers to communicate health status and risk factors prior to patient encounter.
5.	Refined Patient Financial Responsibility	Health Plan shares more specific eligibility/cost sharing information for patients based on health status/diagnosis and/or procedure/service relevant to value-based benefit plans.
6.	Provider Identification on Claims	Stakeholders agree upon the common provider identification data set to be used for data exchange in VBP arrangements.
7.	Identifying Need for Additional Documentation	Stakeholders agree upon standards for health plans to communicate required clinical information for providers to capture during a patient encounter.
8.		Providers use the health care claim to convey non-service related clinical information (e.g. quality metrics or health status information) to the health plan.
9.	Including Non-Service Related Information on Claims	Stakeholders may not truncate medical codes during the health care claim submission and adjudication process.
10.		Vendors and health plans must update their systems with the most recent medica code sets within X days of release.
11.	Requesting and Receiving Additional Documentation	Stakeholders agree on upon standards for providers to report clinical information including quality measures.
12.	Quality Reporting	Stakeholders agree on standards for health plans to communicate quality measure attainment status and deficiencies to providers during the health care claim adjudication process.
13.	Financial Reporting	Health Plans use the remittance advice to convey information about the paymen sent to the provider including potential impact to their end of year VBP.
14.	Contract Transparency	Stakeholders to create a minimum list of contract terms that must be discussed prior to entering a VBP agreement to be coded and included in a patient's eligibility response.
15.	Data Standardization	Stakeholders to create standardized definitions across common terms associate with VBP arrangements to ease confusion across models (e.g. admission, event and clinical guidelines).



Summary of CAQH CORE Recommendations



# **Move Forward**





Pursue through CAQH CORE VBP Subgroup

Patient/Provider Attribution Status at Time of Eligibility Check

Patient Risk Identification Prior to Point of Service

**Pursue through Potential VBP Pilot** 

Inclusion of Expanded Code Sets on Claims

**Explore Synergies with Current CAQH CORE PA Discovery Pilot** 

Provider Notification of Need for Additional Documentation/
Information

Align with CAQH CORE
Attachments Initiative

Standardization of the Exchange of Additional Documentation



Move Forward in Rule Development Process (Traditional Approach)



### CAQH CORE will pursue two opportunity areas through a CAQH CORE VBP Subgroup.

CAQH CORE staff has continued to research these two opportunity areas and draft potential requirements. Research uncovered that the SMEs related to each opportunity area are different, therefore separate Subgroups are needed. The first Subgroup will launch in October to tackle provider attribution.

### Patient/Provider Attribution Status

**Challenge:** Providers are often unaware of their patient's attribution status within their VBP contracts at the point of service, leaving care gaps and other reporting unclear until well after the patient visit.

**Opportunity Area:** Health plan electronically shares patient attribution status at the time of the patient eligibility check.

### **Patient Risk Identification**

Challenge: Providers or health plans may be unaware of patient health status/risk factors that may impact patient care, cost-sharing, or data reporting requirements under VBP arrangements.

Opportunity Area: Stakeholders agree upon standardized data elements, documentation, format, timing and/or exchange mechanism for bidirectional health plan and provider communication concerning risk factors prior to the point of service.



Move Forward in Rule Development Process (Agile Approach)



CAQH CORE will pursue one opportunity area through a potential CAQH CORE VBP Pilot Program.

As this opportunity area is more tightly scoped an operating rule requirement, CAQH CORE will consider a pilot program to test its value to the industry.

### **Inclusion of Expanded Code Sets with Healthcare Claim**

**Challenge:** In an FFS system, the healthcare claim is used by a provider to tell a health plan what services have been provided. However, in VBP models, the outcome of that service is often just as important to satisfy care gaps, quality measures, and/or performance metrics.

**Opportunity Area:** Providers may include expanded code sets (e.g. LOINC or CPT II) to convey non-service-related clinical information.

Explore Synergies with CAQH CORE Prior Authorization Initiative



# CAQH CORE recommended exploring synergies between one opportunity area and the current CAQH CORE Prior Authorization Discovery Pilot Program.

CAQH CORE is in the process of launching a pilot program to test methods of notifying a provider whether a prior authorization is needed and what additional information/documentation a provider may need to submit for approval. The learnings from this pilot program will help scope the infrastructure necessary for the notification of additional information/documentation to address VBP use cases.

### Provider Notification of Need for Additional Information/ Documentation

**Challenge:** Providers are often unaware what additional information/documentation is needed by a health plan to address care gaps, quality measures or performance metrics.

**Opportunity Area:** Stakeholders agree upon standardized data elements, documentation, format, timing and/or exchange mechanism for a health plan to communicate what additional information/documentation is necessary to satisfy a VBP contract.



Align with CAQH CORE Attachments Initiative



CAQH CORE recommended aligning one opportunity area with the CAQH CORE Attachments Initiative.

As the HHS-designated operating rule authoring entity, CAQH CORE is required to create operating rules to help standardize the exchange of additional documentation. CAQH CORE launched an Advisory Group this fall which will evaluate VBP use cases discussed by the VBP Advisory Group.

### **Standardization of the Exchange of Additional Documentation**

**Challenge:** Health plans often request additional documentation to complete information on care gaps, quality measures and performance metrics. However, the wide variety of formats and exchange mechanisms across health plans may delay provider submission and subsequent adjudication.

**Opportunity Area:** Stakeholders agree upon standardized data elements, documentation, format, timing, and/or exchange mechanism (e.g. X12 275, FHIR etc.) for health plan to request and for providers to submit additional clinical documentation related to care gaps, quality measures, and performance metrics.

# Polling Question #2

Would your organization be interested in participating in a CAQH CORE pilot project on the inclusion of expanded code sets on claims?

- Yes.
- No.
- Unsure.

### **Inclusion of Expanded Code Sets with Healthcare Claim**

**Challenge:** In an FFS system, the healthcare claim is used by a provider to tell a health plan what services have been provided. However, in VBP models, the outcome of that service is often just as important to satisfy care gaps, quality measures and/or performance metrics.

**Opportunity Area:** Providers may include expanded code sets (e.g. LOINC or CPT II) to convey non-service-related clinical information.



# Value-based Payment Subgroup Opportunity Area Focus: Patient/Provider Attribution

Helina Gebremariam CAQH CORE Manager



Attribution matches individual patients in a population with providers, which ultimately determines the patients for which a provider (as an individual or as a group) is responsible. Attribution forms the basis of analysis for metrics underpinning VBP, such as total costs of care and quality measures. While health plans supply attribution information on a regular basis, providers are often left with several questions:\*



### Why are they in my population?

VBP contracts between health plans and providers may include information on the methodology for assigning patients to a population. However, clinicians providing care often do not have insight into those contracts and may not know why a patient is in their population, especially if it is a patient without a prior relationship.



### Who is on first?

Patients may be attributed to a singular provider or a group of providers which may leave ambiguity as to who is the primary care provider (PCP) responsible for the patient. Furthermore, patients with chronic conditions such as heart disease may have a specialist who acts as their PCP which may or not be reflected in the attribution model.



### Who else is involved?

In some VBP models, providers are penalized when patients in their population visit other providers. Providers may not have insight as to where else their patient is seeking care. Preventing "leakage" is a large incentive in VBP contracts, but without visibility into patient utilization, providers are often unaware when this occurs until after the contract period.

Provider success under VBP models requires knowing the answers to all these questions, but before asking these questions a provider needs to know the answer to the most important:

### IS THIS PATIENT IN MY ATTRIBUTED POPULATION?

\*National Quality Forum, 2016



# Identifying Patients Prior to Point of Service

Providers currently receive monthly, quarterly, or annual reports that list the patients in their population for a VBP contract. These lists are delivered in various formats across health plans with varying degrees of information. Since these lists are delivered in aggregate, providers often do not have time to deviate from their pre-appointment workflow to log into a different system and look-up to see if a patient with a scheduled visit is attributed to them.

Just as with FFS, CAQH CORE will work with current standards to create uniform data content when sharing attribution information, define the exchange method and forms, and set requirements for when this information must be shared.

### **Examples of Potential Operating Rules to be Discussed by VBP Subgroup:**

Data Content

What data elements should be shared when requesting and sending attribution status?

Infrastructure

What is the ideal timeframe to communicate attribution status?

Connectivity

What exchange methods and formats can be used when sending and receiving attribution status (e.g. SOAP, REST, X12, FHIR etc.)?

### Data Content

Requesting attribution status prior to the point of service requires provider and patient identifying information for health plans to link a patient to a provider's population in their VBP contract.

Below is an example of what data content may be needed to share attribution information at the point of eligibility (i.e. prior to point of service):

### **Request for Attribution Status Attribution Status Response:** Provider Sends Combination of: Health Plans Returns Combination of: **Attributed Provider Provider Attribution Status Patient Identifying Information** Identifying Information (Yes/No/Partial) Information (if not requester) Contract Identifying **Patient Care Gaps** Information

This request and response could pertain to a singular provider requesting information for a singular patient or a group of providers requesting information on a group of patients or any combination, a singular provider requesting information on a single patient, etc.

Infrastructure and connectivity operating rules would provide consistency in how that information is exchanged.



# Infrastructure & Connectivity

Whether requesting the attribution status of a single patient or a group of patients, operating rules can support a consistent method and format for the exchange of this information and set industry expectations for when this exchange occurs.



**Infrastructure operating rules** would increase the reliability of attribution information by defining how often this information should be exchanged, the timeframe for an acknowledgement of a receipt of an attribution status request and a timeframe for a final attribution status response.



A connectivity safe harbor would define exchange methods and formats that should be used when exchanging attribution information. This would eliminate bulky Excel files in favor of truly electronic exchanges via REST or SOAP using consistent standards such as X12 or FHIR.

Infrastructure and connectivity operating rules work across use cases. An update to the CORE Connectivity Operating Rules is planned for 2020.

# **How to Get Involved**

**Erin Weber** CAQH CORE Director



# Healthcare administration is rapidly changing.



Join Us



Collaborate across stakeholder types to develop operating rules.



Present on CAQH CORE education sessions.



Engage with the decision makers that comprise 75% of the industry.



Represent your organization in work groups.



Influence the direction of health IT policy.



Drive the creation of operating rules to accelerate interoperability.

Click here for more information on joining CAQH CORE as well as a complete list of Participating Organizations.



# 2019 CAQH CORE Participation

# Summary of Organizations

Participating Organizations—spanning multiple stakeholder types—work together to develop and implement the rules of the road and streamline the business of healthcare.

Providers/Provider Associations

Health Plans/Health Plan Associations

Vendor/Clearinghouses

Standards Organizations/ Regional Entities & Government



CAQH CORE
Participation
enables healthcare
organizations to:

- Lead development of rules that remove unnecessary cost and complexity from the healthcare system.
- Ensure that rules continue to meet evolving business needs and address specific markets.
- Stay up to date on industry developments, upcoming regulations & real-world case studies.

Complete list of CAQH CORE Participating Organizations available here.

 Develop guidelines for measurement and tracking of ROI across the industry.



# **Call for Participants**

# Expectations & Commitment



### **Call for Participants – Who Should Join?**

- The Value-based Payments Subgroup is open to all CAQH CORE Participating Organizations and multiple individuals from the same Participating Organization may join.
- The Subgroup is specifically recruiting Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in provider attribution and those familiar with the HIPAA-mandated transactions. Multiple individuals from the same organization may join.



### What is the commitment?

- Attend and actively participate in meetings.
- Participate in workbooks/straw polls and cast votes as appropriate.
- Stay up to date on meeting materials
  - CAQH CORE staff assist Co-chairs with drafting meeting materials.
  - Meeting summaries are created after each call/meeting and approved by the participants.



### SME's should have:

- Knowledge of how their organization operates today.
- Understanding of how a standard requirement would impact their organization, both in terms of feasibility to implement as well as value across business functions.
- Ideally, SME's would work in departments such as Network Contracting, Population Health, Patient Access, Care Management, Utilizations Management, Authorized Business Systems and Care & Disease Management.

# CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Initiative Next Steps

The VBP Subgroup on Patient/Provider Attribution will launch with a web conference on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm to 4 pm ET.

Subsequent VBP Subgroup Calls will occur approximately once a month on Thursdays from 2:30 pm to 4 pm ET.

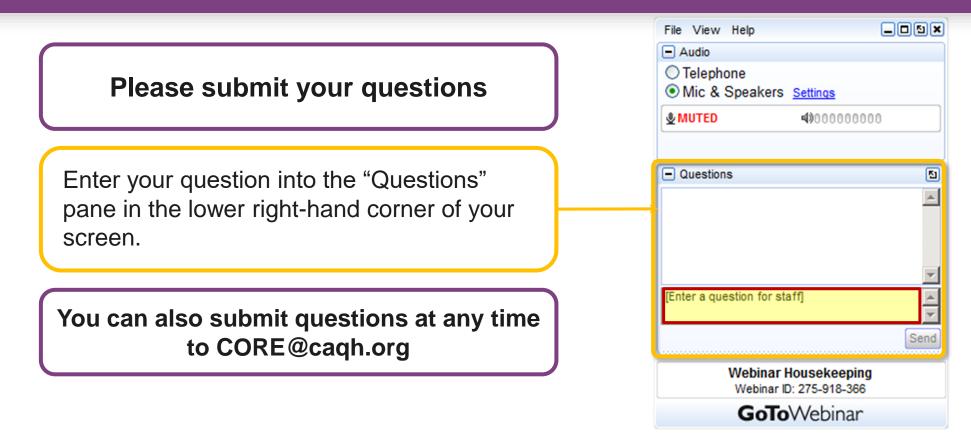


# **Polling Question #3**

Would your organization be interested in participating in the VBP Subgroup on Patient/Provider Attribution?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

# **Audience Q&A**



### Download a copy of today's presentation slides at <a href="https://www.caqh.org/core/events">https://www.caqh.org/core/events</a>

- Navigate to the Resources section for today's event to find a PDF version of today's presentation slides.
- Also, a copy of the slides and the webinar recording will be emailed to all attendees and registrants in the next 1-2 business days.

### Resources

Presentation Slides



# **Resource Library**





Password (case sensitive)







### e-Learning Resources

Welcome to the CAQH CORE e-Learning Resources page.



CAQH CORE Integrated Model July 30, 2019

Click on this Integrated Model to explore how CAQH CORE is changing the industry.



Components of CORE Certification July 30, 2019

Use this learning module to learn about the four components of voluntary CORE Certification

Utilize our <u>interactive online tools</u> to learn more about the CORE Certification process and the CAQH CORE model.

Explore our **YouTube** page to access over 75 CAQH CORE tutorials and webinar recordings.

Listen to a tutorial on the **Phase V Operating Rules**.

Go to our <u>FAQs</u> page to for answers to questions on topics such as operating rule implementation and CORE Participation.

Read out our recent white paper "Moving
Forward: Building Momentum for End-to-End
Automation of the Prior Authorization
Process."



# **Upcoming CAQH CORE Education Sessions**

# **CAQH CORE Town Hall National Webinar**

October 10, 2019 2:00-3:00 PM EST

<u>CAQH CORE Value-based Payment Webinar Series: Overview of LAN Roadmap for Driving High Performance in Alternative Payment Models</u>

October 22, 2019 2:00-3:00 PM EST



# Thank you for joining us!



Website: <a href="https://www.CAQH.org/CORE">www.CAQH.org/CORE</a>

Email: CORE@CAQH.org

# The CAQH CORE Mission

Drive the creation and adoption of healthcare operating rules that support standards, accelerate interoperability and align administrative and clinical activities among providers, payers and consumers.