# CAQH. CORE



Research + Measurement Insights: A Conversation with CAQH Index and **CAQH CORE** Staff

> May 20, 2020 1:00-1:30 pm EST

## Logistics

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

- Accessing webinar materials
  - You can download the presentation slides now from the "Handouts" section of the GoToWebinar menu.
  - You can download the presentation slides and recording at <u>www.caqh.org/core/events</u> after the webinar.
  - A copy of the slides and the webinar recording will also 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.





# Agenda

- Overview
- Explorations Overview
- CAQH CORE Pilot & Measurement Initiative
- Q&A

# **CAQH Explorations**

Kristine Burnaska
Director Research and Measurement

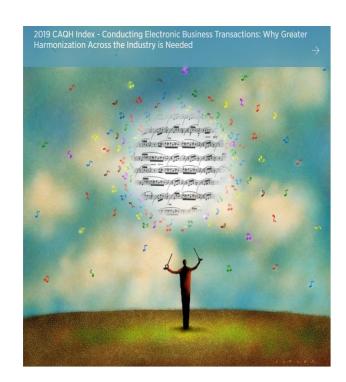
## **Explorations Overview**

- Research arm of CAQH.
- Manages data driven initiatives focused on demonstrating the impact of streamlined business processes.
- Works closely with CORE, Solutions and Marketing to promote and support CAQH's mission and products.
- Collaborates and engages with the industry to gain and share valuable insights.

## **CAQH Index**

### Annual Report

- Industry source for tracking and benchmarking medical/dental plan and provider adoption of fully electronic administrative transactions.
- 2019 CAQH Index is the seventh report produced by CAQH.
- Guided by the Index Advisory Council consisting of experts in administrative transactions, data analysis and healthcare management.
  - Represents providers, health plans, vendors and other industry partners.
- Benchmark Metrics
  - Adoption
  - Volume
  - Cost and Time Savings Opportunities
  - Cost Avoided and Spend (NEW)
- Sample Representation
  - About 50% of medical and dental covered lives
  - PBMs (Partnered with NCPDP in 2019)



## 2020 CAQH Index

- 2020 CAQH Index Data Collection
  - Consulting with the Index Advisory Council
  - Anticipated July 2020
- 2020 Enhancements: Medical Surveys
  - Prior Authorization Workflow Resources
  - Provider Attribution
  - FHIR (Health Plans only)
  - COVID Volume Impact (Health Plans only)
- Dental plan and providers surveys will remain the same as 2019.

# **Polling Question**

Are you interested in participating in the 2020 Index?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure/Need more information

## **Other Research Initiatives**

- Provider Burden Survey
  - Maintaining provider directories
    - > Paper released November 2019
  - Credentialing
- Coordination of Benefits
  - Digging deeper into enrollment trends
- Prior Authorization Workflow
  - Begin evaluating resources associated with key tasks
- Impact of CAQH CORE Operating Rules on Prior Authorization Workflow
  - Coordinating with CAQH CORE on measurement

# **CAQH CORE**

Rachel Goldstein CAQH CORE Senior Manager



## **CAQH CORE Operating Rules Related to Prior Authorization**

## Existing & Under Consideration

Prior Authorization Operating Rules reduce administrative burden, close automation gaps and allow for patients to receive more timely care.

# Provider Determines if PA is Required & Information Needed

Provider identifies if PA is required and what documentation is required; collects info

#### **Existing**

- Standard Companion Guide
- Accurate patient identification
- Application of standard data field labels to proprietary web portals

#### **Under Consideration**

 Use of codes to communicate if a PA is required and what documentation is needed

# Provider & Health Plan Exchange Information

Provider submits PA Request; Health Plan receives and pends for additional documentation: Provider submits additional documentation

#### **Existing**

- System availability for standard transaction
- PA receipt confirmation
- Consistent connectivity and security methods
- Time requirement for initial response
- Consistent system availability for web portals
- Consistent review of

- diagnosis/procedure/revenue codes for adjudication
- Consistent communication of specific errors
- Display of code descriptions
- Use of codes to communicate reason for pend and additional documentation needed
- Response time requirement for requesting additional clinical information

# Health Plan Adjudicates & Approves / Denies PA Request

Health Plan reviews request and determines response; sends response to Provider

#### **Existing**

- Consistent connectivity and security methods
- Detection and display of code descriptions
- Response time requirement for final determination
- Optional close out a prior authorization request if requested information is not received (Note: this is not an approval or denial).

#### **Under Consideration**

- Updated, consistent connectivity modes for data exchange (APIs, REST)
- Consistent electronic exchange of additional clinical information

#### **Under Consideration**

- Updated, consistent connectivity modes for data exchange (APIs, REST)
- Reassociation of additional clinical documentation with prior authorization request



Overview

#### **Initiative Vision**

Partner with industry organizations to **measure the impact** of existing and potentially new **CAQH CORE prior authorization operating rules** on efficiency metrics.

#### **Goals for Initiative**



Apply existing and test new operating rules that support greater automation of the PA workflow.



Ensure that operating rules support industry organizations in varying stages of maturity along the standards (existing and emerging: X12, HL7 FHIR, etc.) and technology adoption curve.



Support industry organizations' efforts to track and articulate the impact of workflow improvements, using standard metrics.



As appropriate, recommend rules for **national implementation** to federal bodies (NCVHS and HHS).



## **Participation Options**

Collaborate with CAQH CORE subject matter and measurement experts to track and articulate the impact of:

**Option 1.** An *existing* prior authorization automation project within your organization.

**Option 2.** A *new* implementation of operating rules and corresponding standards.



## Sample Measures Across Pilots

To assess impact of the operating rules and standards in your organization's prior authorization improvement implementation or pilot, CAQH CORE SMEs work with you to isolate changes in volume and time across comparison groups. Our SMEs work with your analysts to determine the soundest and least burdensome measurement approach based on your organization.

### Sample Measures Across Pilots to Establish Baseline & Measure Impact

#### Tracking Changes in Volume

- Real-time PA approvals
- PAs pended for additional information
- PAs that go to peer-to-peer review
- PA approvals, denials
- Staff manual intervention (reduced number of touches per PA request)
- Patient appointment cancellations/ reschedules

#### Tracking Changes in Time

- Staff initiating PA request
- Time from PA request submission to peer-to-peer review
- Time from "pended for clinical information" status to final determination
- Overall turnaround time

### **Overall Impact**

- Annual savings
- Increased provider staff satisfaction levels
- Reduced time to patient care/treatment



## Benefits of Participating

- When you collaborate with CAQH CORE on this initiative, you receive the guidance of a neutral third-party non-profit organization with expertise in PA, standards and operating rules. Support and benefits include:
  - Review of technical specifications to understand where operating rules and standards are currently integrated (or may be developed).
  - Development of measurement approach, including guidance on measurement method, specification of data needs, and standard measures.
  - Data analysis and articulation of key findings. Recommendations on how to further strengthen/streamline with operating rules and standards, based on findings.
  - Opportunity to share successes with a national audience, via conference/webinar collaborations and potential issue briefs.
  - Input into suggestions for national implementation, given CAQH CORE's role.

### Participant expectations:

- Appoint a project executive sponsor and primary point of contact to liaise with CAQH CORE.
- Participate in 1-2 initial interviews to understand current state.
- Provide a list of measures that your organization tracks today. CAQH CORE will work with pilot organizations to assess data availability/ collection feasibility in order to align with organization's existing measures.
- Availability for two half-day working sessions (can be virtual) with CAQH CORE SMEs.
- Participate in check-in calls to document observations, trouble-shoot as needed, etc.



Collaborating with Organizations

The Pilot & Measurement Initiative is flexible to collaborate with implementer organizations – including health systems, health plans, and prior authorization vendors – regardless of the organization's stage in project.

## **Organization's Project Stage**

### **Examples of CAQH CORE Support for your Project**

Identification/validation of appropriate comparison groups, measurement approach, priority measures.

#### **Scoping/Planning**

Organizations interested in starting a PA improvement project/pilot in the **future**.

- Support for organizing pre/baseline information prior to pilot/implementation launch.
- Support pinpointing where operating rules and standards apply to your current and future state.
- Once implementation launches, ongoing support defined on prior slide.

### In Progress

Can also include organizations that began a PA improvement project/pilot prior to COVID-19 but put measurement on hold due to changes in PA volumes.

- If your project is on hold, support for ensuring a seamless restart once PA volumes normalize.
- Validation of appropriate timeframes and measures for baseline/pre data (pre-COVID-19).
- Assistance with collecting anecdotal information to capture initial user experience.
- Identification of where CAQH CORE operating rules factor into your piloted solution.
- Ongoing support defined on prior slide.

#### Complete

Organizations that have **already completed** a PA improvement project.

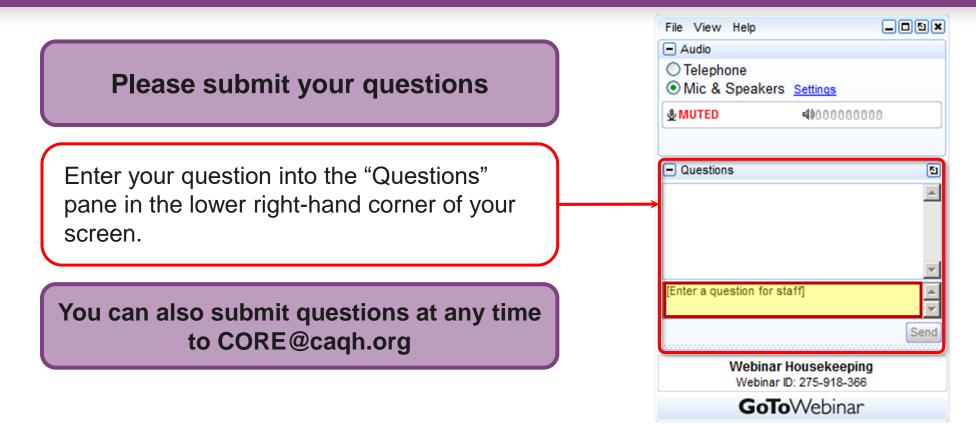
- Support for articulating impact with standard measures.
- Support for sharing your successes and lessons learned.
- Knowing how operating rules already factor into your solution and benefit your workflows.

## **Polling Question**

Are you interested in the Prior Authorization Pilot & Measurement Initiative?

- Yes, I'm interested in getting involved
- Unsure, I would like to learn more about it
- No, I am not interested

## Audience Q&A



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## 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.



# 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.

