CAQH Connectivity Operating Rule

NCVHS Subcommittee on Standards
Hearing on Proposed CAQH CORE Operating Rules
August 25-26, 2020

Overview

- Current landscape
- Value of proposed connectivity rule
- Opportunities for improvement

American Hospital Association™

Advancing Health in America

Current Landscape

- **Safe Harbor**: Concept that enables vendors, providers, and health plans the security of knowing that other parties will support the connectivity method described in the rule.
  - Currently established by transaction, permitting different "safe harbors" for different transactions

- **Security:** Connectivity rules allow outdated, less secure authentication methods
  - Username + Password

CAQH-CORE Connectivity Operating Rule: Anticipated Value

Improves security:

- Utilizes X.509 Digital Certificate based authentication

Streamlines "safe harbor" methodology:

- Applies across transactions

- Eliminates problematic possibility for variance

American Hospital Association™

Advancing Health in America

CAQH-CORE Connectivity Operating Rule: Opportunity for Improvement

Current system availability requirements are antiquated and fail to support industry need

- Currently, systems only need to be available 86% of the time in order to be compliant

  - With healthcare being a 24/7 industry, permissible systematic downtime needs to be much less than 14%.

American Hospital Association™

Advancing Health in America

Conclusion

The AHA recommends that NCVHS approve the proposed Connectivity Operating Rule in order to improve security and streamline safe harbor across the HIPAA transactions.

Terrence Cunningham
Director, Administrative Simplification Policy
tcunningham@aha.org

American Hospital Association™

Advancing Health in America