



National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics
Advising the HHS Secretary on National Health Information Policy

NCVHS Standards Subcommittee Report to the Full Committee

December 7, 2022

Subcommittee Updates and Actions



- **Convergence 2.0 Update**
- **Requests from X12 and CAQH CORE**
 - X12 standard transactions version update
 - CAQH/CORE Operating Rule updates/new operating rules
- **HHS NCPDP pharmacy standard proposed rule published in FR November 9**
 - Proposed Rule to adopt the updated NCPDP pharmacy standard, version F6, and subrogation. ***Comment period closes on January 9, 2023.***
 - Recommended by NCVHS in 2019.
- **ICD-11 Status & Next Steps**

Standardization of Information for Burden Reduction and Post-Pandemic America



Convergence 2.0 Update

Convergence 2.0 Update



- **Joint ePA RFI Task Force with HITAC**

- *Final Report of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee in Response to ONC's Electronic Prior Authorization Request for Information, March 10, 2022*

- Tammy Banks served as Co-Chair. Rich Landen & Deb Strickland participated as members

- **June 2022 Subcommittee Listening Session**

- Industry stakeholder roundtable discussion

- Topics related to adoption of HIPAA standards, and new drivers in health care data exchange.

- Letter to HHS proposed four actionable recommendations for consideration

- **Regular Subcommittee engagement with leadership from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) and Office of Burden Reduction and Health Informatics (OBRHI)**

Recommendations to HHS (June 2022)



- **Recommendation 1**: Update relevant HIPAA policies to allow the adoption and use of more than one standard per business function.
- **Recommendation 2**: Enable HIPAA Covered Entities to support one or more versions of adopted standards for business functions.
- **Recommendation 3**: ONC's existing authority be expanded to facilitate the coordination of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) data standards efforts across HHS agencies and offices (e.g., CMS, ONC, CDC, NIH, IHS), to include a formalized public process that would include non-federal entities (e.g., State, Tribal, Local and Territorial governments (STLTs), private health and healthcare systems) to align national standards with evolving and complex national and local reporting and information needs.
- **Recommendation 4**: HHS develop and publish a guidance framework for Standard Development Organizations and other industry stakeholders that outlines how to develop and report measures for new and revised standards readiness, costs, and overall adoption value to support HIPAA standards development, testing, evaluation and adoption.



Requests from X12 and CAQH CORE

Role of NCVHS



Roles and Responsibilities for NCVHS

- Receive requests for new or updated standards and operating rules from Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) and Operating Rule Authoring Entities (ORAEs);
 - For updated standards, obtain input from industry, including Designated Standards Maintenance Organizations (DSMOs), i.e., ADA, HL7, NCPDP, NUBC, NUCC, and X12 regarding the requested modifications;
 - For updated and new operating rules, obtain industry input on how the operating rules support the adopted HIPAA transactions
- Make recommendation(s) to the Secretary of HHS

Transaction Standards & Operating Rules



- **Transaction standards** are:
 - the electronic exchange of health-related information between two parties to carry out financial or administrative activities.
 - HHS has adopted certain standard transactions for the electronic exchange of health care data under HIPAA.
- **Operating rules** are required by the **Affordable Care Act**
 - Operating rules are defined as the “Necessary business rules and guidelines for the electronic exchange of information that are not defined by a standard or its implementation specifications;
 - Business rules and guidelines do not duplicate what is in the standard and may not be inconsistent or in conflict with the standard. Operating rules typically go above and beyond the standard in terms of data content and other requirements.”

X12 Request to Update HIPAA Transactions



- X12 has requested NCVHS recommend that the Secretary adopt version 8020 for certain transaction implementation guides:
 - **Claims** (837 Professional, Institutional and Dental)
 - 2021 CAQH Index adoption rates: 97% (Medical) and 84% (Dental)
 - **Payment/Remittance Advice** (835)
 - 2021 CAQH Index adoption rates: 76% (Medical) and 84% (Dental)
- Move from Version 005010 to Version 008020
 - *5010 balloted by X12 2003; adopted under HIPAA 2009; implemented 2012*
- All other adopted transactions remain on version 5010
- The X12 letter is available on the NCVHS website: <https://ncvhs.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/X12-Request-for-review-of-8020-transactions-060822-to-NCVHS-508.pdf>

X12 Request to Update HIPAA Transactions *(continued)*



Implementation Guide	Number of Enhancements
008020X323 Health Care Claim: Professional (837)	1,041
008020X324 Health Care Claim: Institutional (837)	1,136
008020X325 Health Care Claim: Dental (837)	333
008020X322 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice (835)	259

Source: X12

Requested Updates to adopted Operating Rules under HIPAA



CAQH/CORE Proposed Updates to Adopted Operating Rules:

- Eligibility & Benefits (270/271) Data Content Rule
- Claim Status (276/277) Infrastructure Rule (updates + reference to updated Connectivity rule)
- Payment & Remittance Advice (835) Infrastructure Rule (reference to updated Connectivity rule)
- Eligibility & Benefits (270/271) Infrastructure Rule (updates + reference to updated Connectivity rule)
- The letter to Letter to NCVHS from CAQH/CORE is available on the NCVHS website:
<https://ncvhs.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/CAQH-CORE-Board-Letter-to-NCVHS-re-New-Updated-OR-052322-508.pdf>

Requested Updates to HIPAA/ACA Operating Rules *(continued)*



Additional proposals from CAQH/CORE for Operating Rules

- Connectivity Rule vC4.0.0 (includes updates to the Connectivity Rule included in existing operating rules)
 - Replaces existing connectivity requirements in infrastructure components of adopted operating rules and adds new requirements to all operating rules
- Eligibility & Benefits (270/271) Single Patient Attribution Data Content Rule
- Attachments Prior Authorization Infrastructure Rule*
- Attachments Prior Authorization Data Content Rule*
- Attachments Health Care Claims Infrastructure Rule*
- Attachments Health Care Claims Data Content Rule*

**NCVHS recognizes that there is no adopted standard transaction for Attachments*

NCVHS Actions to Address X12 and CAQH/CORE Proposals



- Presentations by CAQH/CORE and X12 to Subcommittee on Standards - August 2022
- Collaboration with WEDI (named advisor to HHS in the HIPAA statute)
 - Informational sessions
 - WEDI Industry Survey
 - Member Position Advisory (MPA) Event – November 2022
- NCVHS Request for Comment (RFC) on Proposals from X12 and CAQH CORE. *Federal Register/Vol. 87, No. 210/Tuesday, November 1, 2022.* Comments due December 15.
- Consultative conversations with CMS OBRHI/NSG and HHS ONC
- NCVHS hearing scheduled for January 18 & 19, 2023 (virtual)

NCVHS Actions to Address X12 and CAQH/CORE Proposals (Continued)



- NCVHS hearing January 18 & 19, 2023 (virtual)
- **NCVHS will obtain industry input about:**
 - Need for and benefits/impact from the proposed changes from X12.
 - Need for and benefits/impact from the updates to the adopted operating rules
 - Need for and impact on implementation of proposed new operating rules.
 - Available cost benefit information for implementation of either updated version of the standard transactions, and updated or new operating rules.
 - How the requests from X12 and CAQH CORE support the objectives of HIPAA and ACA.
 - Other information to support Subcommittee feedback to HHS



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X12 and CORE Updates Questions?

Previous NCVHS Standards Subcommittee Work Informing Convergence 2.0



- [NCVHS Subcommittee's Roadmap to Improve Adoption of National Standards \(February 2019\)](#)
- [Recent Recommendations to Modernize HIPAA Transaction Standards \(July 2022\)](#)

Where to Find NCVHS Materials



All at <https://ncvhs.hhs.gov/>

- Calendars and Agendas
- Membership and Committees
- Recommendations
- Reports
- Meeting Summaries, Recordings and Transcripts
- Responses from HHS
- ***Request for Comment (RFC) Questions and Upcoming Hearing Materials***