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1 Straw Poll Background

This document provides the results of the *CAQH CORE Code Combinations Task Group Initial Straw Poll on Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*. The Straw Poll addressed potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* to ensure alignment with the publication of updates to the CARC and RARC lists on 03/01/22.

The Task Group Initial Straw Poll was sent to Task Group Participants on Friday, 03/04/22 with a completion deadline of 5 pm ET on Wednesday, 03/23/22. *Doc#1: Draft Impact Analysis: Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* was sent to the Task Group as references to assist in completing the straw poll.

The results of this CBR will be published by Wednesday, 06/01/22 as the *CORE-required Code Combinations v3.7.1 June 2022* and will supersede all previous versions of the *CORE Code Combinations*.

2 Straw Poll Format

The *Task Group Initial Straw Poll on Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* was divided into two sections which addressed:

- Section 1: *Compliance-based Adjustments for Modified RARCs*
- Section 2: *Potential Compliance-based Adjustments for CARCs Added to the Published List*

For each newly added CARC or RARC that met the evaluation criteria for addition to the *CORE Code Combinations*, respondents were asked to list any additional codes (i.e., RARCs or CORE-required CARCs respectively) that they recommended associating with the CARC or RARC in the *CORE Code Combinations*. Additionally, for all questions, respondents were given the option to comment on their organization's position.

Table 1: Summary of Recommended Compliance-based Adjustments to *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* by Type of Code List Adjustment

Type of Code List Adjustments	Total Published Code List Adjustments	Recommended Potential Impact on <i>CORE Code Combinations</i>
Code List Deactivations in March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 CARCs deactivated • 0 RARCs deactivated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • N/A
Code List Description Modifications in March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 CARC description modified • 3 RARC descriptions modified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • One of the modified RARCs is included in the <i>CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022</i>
Code List Additions in March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 CARCs added • 19 RARCs added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both of the new CARCs meet the CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criteria and can be considered for addition. • None of the new RARCs meet the CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criteria.

3 Summary of Respondents

Responses to the Task Group straw poll were received from **68%** of the active CAQH CORE Code Combinations Task Group participating organizations and **5** key industry stakeholder types.

Table 2: Responses from Task Group Participating Entities by Number and Entity Type

Number of Active* Task Group Participating Entities	28
Total Number of Individual Organizational Responses	19 (68%)
Number of Health Plan/Health Plan Association Responses	7 (37% of respondents)
Number of Provider/Provider Association Responses	2 (11% of respondents)
Number of Vendor/Clearinghouse Responses	3 (16% of respondents)
Number of Government Responses (Medicaids, etc.)	2 (11% of respondents)
Number of Other Stakeholder Type Responses (SDO/Regional Entities, etc.)	5 (26% of respondents)

***NOTE:** Active participants attended the majority of Task Group calls and responded to a majority of Task Group Straw Polls for the last 5 Compliance-based Reviews.

4 Summary of Results – Section 1: Compliance-based Adjustments to Modified RARCs

RARC MA33 is currently associated with CARC 16 in CORE-defined Business Scenario #2 (*Missing/Invalid/Incomplete Data from Submitted Claim*) in the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*. The modification to the RARC description (i.e., changing “noncovered” to “covered”) does not impact its association with that CARC, as such the current code combinations were not included in the March 2022 CBR Initial Straw Poll.

Section 1 of the initial straw poll asked respondents for any comments related to the RARC modification. No comments were submitted.

5 Summary of Results – Section 2: Potential Compliance-based Adjustments for CARCs Added to the Published List

Section 2 of the initial straw poll asked respondents to indicate their organization’s support for adding 5 code combinations using new CARCs 304 and 305 to CORE-defined Business Scenario # 3 (*Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan*). As seen in Table 3 below, all 5 code combinations received high support (≥ 65%), as such CAQH CORE staff and co-chairs recommend adding each combination to the *CORE Code Combinations*.

The straw poll also asked respondents to submit any additional RARCs that their organization supported associating with each new CARC in the *CORE Code Combinations*. No additional RARCs were submitted. The initial straw poll also noted that, should the Task Group support addition of

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the new CARC code combination, CAGCs would be included in accordance with the associated CARC's CORE-defined Business Scenario per [CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criterion #17](#). Respondents were asked to provide any comments their organization had regarding association of the CAGCs with the new CARCs 304 and 305, no such comments were submitted.

Table 3: Support for Adding Code Combinations with New CARCs 304 and 305

CARC #	CARC Description	RARC #	RARC Description	% Support	# Abstains	Key Comment Issues(Based on Submitted Comments/Analysis)	Co-Chair & CAQHCORE Staff Recommendation	Task Group Decision
CORE-defined Business Scenario # 3 (Billed ServiceNot Covered by Health Plan)								
304	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Submit these services to the patient's hearing plan for further consideration.			100%	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One respondent commented that the request for new CARCs seems valid and necessary. The RARC combos are consistent with other combos we have. 	Add to CORE Code Combinations	
		N130	Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service.	94%	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	Add to CORE Code Combinations	
		N216	We do not offer coverage for this type of service or the patient is not enrolled in this portion of our benefit package.	94%	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	Add to CORE Code Combinations	
		N658	The billed service(s) are not considered medical expenses.	94%	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	Add to CORE Code Combinations	
305	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Submit these			100%	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One respondent commented that the request for new CARCs seems valid and 	Add to CORE Code Combinations	

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services to the patient's hearing plan for further consideration.						necessary. The RARC combos are consistent with other combos we have.		
	N130	Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service.	94%%	3		• N/A	Add to CORE Code Combinations	
	N658	The billed service(s) are not considered medical expenses.	94%			• N/A	Add to CORE Code Combinations	

6 Next Steps

A follow-up straw poll for the March 2022 Compliance-based Review will be distributed to the Task Group on Wednesday, 04/20/2022. The follow-up straw poll will include any code combination adjustments the Task Group agrees to re-poll.

Prior to distribution of the follow-up straw poll, Task Group Participants will be asked to submit any rationale they have in support of/not in support of the code combination adjustments to be included on the follow-up straw poll. These comments will be distributed with the follow-up straw poll for consideration by the respondents. Comments must be submitted to CAQH CORE by **5 pm ET, Wednesday, 04/13/22** to be distributed with the follow-up straw poll. CAQH CORE will distribute a template form on Thursday, 4/07/22 that participants can use to submit rationale.

The CAQH CORE Code Combinations Task Group will meet on Tuesday, 05/17/22 to review the results of the follow-up straw poll and reach agreement on the final Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*. The updated *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.1 June 2022*, reflecting Task Group-approved adjustments, will be published to the CAQH CORE website by Friday, 06/03/22.

Appendix A: Summary of Results - Codes Submitted in Response to Potential Compliance-based Adjustments

A.1. RARCs Submitted for Association with Straw-pollled CARCs

The initial straw poll also asked respondents to submit any additional RARCs their organization supported associating with new CARCs 304 and 305. No RARCs were submitted.

Appendix B: Summary of Results – By Stakeholder Type

Table B.1: Support for Adding New CARCs 304 and 305 by Stakeholder Type

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CARC #	CARC Description	RARC#	RARC Description	% Total Support	% Support HealthPlans	% Support Providers	% Support Other
Potential CORE-defined Business Scenario #3: Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan							
304	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Submit these services to the patient's hearing plan for further consideration.			100%	100%	100%	100%
		N130	Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service.	94%	100%	50%	100%
		N216	We do not offer coverage for this type of service or the patient is not enrolled in this portion of our benefit package.	94%	100%	50%	100%
		N658	The billed service(s) are not considered medical expenses.	94%	100%	50%	100%
305	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Submit these services to the patient's hearing plan for further consideration.			100%	100%	100%	100%
		N130	Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service.	94%	100%	50%	100%
				94%	100%	50%	100%