

CORE Code Combinations Task Group March 2022 CBR Initial Straw Poll

Background

The [CAQH CORE 360: Uniform Use of CARCs and RARCs \(835\) Rule](#) enables more uniform use of the CARCs and RARCs by targeting a *minimum* set of Business Scenarios for common problems with a *maximum* specified set of code combinations for each Business Scenario. The associated *CORE-required Code Combinations for CORE-defined Business Scenarios* must be maintained to ensure ongoing alignment with the current, published [CARC](#) and [RARC](#) lists that are maintained by the respective code authors.

This straw poll covers potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the [CORE-required Code Combinations for CORE-defined Business Scenarios v3.7. February 2022](#) (hereafter *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*). With the publication of updates to the CARC and RARC lists on 03/01/22, the CAQH CORE Code Combinations Task Group will address code deactivations, modifications and additions to ensure ongoing alignment between the *CORE Code Combinations* and the published code lists. After completing this Initial Straw Poll, the Task Group will convene on Tuesday, 04/05/22, to discuss the results and potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*.

Initial Straw Poll Format

This straw poll has two sections:

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

The Initial Straw Poll asks Task Group participants if they support the draft analysis and allows them to recommend additional code combinations based on updates to the published code lists.

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.

Instructions

The straw poll is to be completed by CAQH CORE Code Combinations Task Group Participants only. Limit one response per organization; responses must be submitted via the online survey tool by **5 pm ET on Wednesday, 03/23/22**. Questions should be directed to Daphne Asteriadis, CORE Senior Associate, at dasteriadis@caqh.org.

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Additional reference documents are necessary to complete the straw poll; Task Group Participants should refer to the following document attached to the July 2021 Compliance-based Review Initial Straw Poll launch email:

- *Doc#1: Impact Analysis – Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* for a detailed analysis of the 03/01/22 published adjustments to the CARC and RARC lists and the recommended potential impact to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*.

Additional resources:

- A PDF of the straw poll was distributed to the Task Group via email for review purposes only.
- The published CARC list maintained by ASC X12 is available [HERE](#).
- The published RARC list maintained by the Remittance Advice Remark Code is available [HERE](#).
- Additional information regarding the published code lists and how to sign up for the WPC Alert Services is available [HERE](#).

Next Steps

- The Straw Poll will be open beginning Wednesday, 03/09/22. Straw poll responses are due by **5 pm ET on Wednesday, 03/23/22** and must be submitted via this online survey tool to be considered.
- The Task Group will review the straw poll results on its Tuesday, 04/05/22, call and determine if a Follow-up Straw Poll is necessary based on the results.
- **Goal:** Per CAQH CORE policy, publish the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.1 June 2022* on the CAQH CORE website by 06/01/22 to ensure compliance is met.

NOTE: In accordance with CAQH CORE policy, all responses will be kept strictly confidential and only identified by stakeholder category. If your organization chooses not to complete the straw poll, CAQH CORE will not be able to capture your organization's feedback on the potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*. Please coordinate within your organization to submit only one response.

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Task Group Participant Information

Please coordinate within your organization to submit only one response for your organization. Multiple responses from the same organization will not be tabulated.

First & Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Position Title	<input type="text"/>
Name of CORE Participating Organization	<input type="text"/>
E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

Respondent Stakeholder Type

	Provider/Provider Association	Health Plan/Health Plan Association	Clearinghouse or Vendor	Government Entity	Other
Select Stakeholder Type	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Section 1: Compliance-based Adjustments to Modified RARCs

RARC #	Prior RARC Description	March 2022 Modified RARC Description
MA33	Missing/incomplete/invalid noncovered days during the billing period.	Missing/incomplete/invalid non-covered days during the billing period.
N830	Alert: The charge[s] for this service was processed in accordance with Federal/ State Balance/ Surprise Billing regulations. As such, any amount identified with “OA”, “CO”, or “PI” cannot be collected from the member and may be considered provider liability or be billable to a subsequent payer. Any amount the provider collected over the identified “PR” amount must be refunded to the patient within applicable Federal/ State timeframes. Payment amounts are eligible for dispute following any Federal/ State documented appeal/ grievance/ arbitration process.	Alert: The charge[s] for this service was processed in accordance with Federal/ State, Balance Billing/ No Surprise Billing regulations. As such, any amount identified with OA, CO, or PI cannot be collected from the member and may be considered provider liability or be billable to a subsequent payer. Any amount the provider collected over the identified PR amount must be refunded to the patient within applicable Federal/State timeframes. Payment amounts are eligible for dispute pursuant to any Federal/State documented appeal/grievance process(es).
N859	Alert: The Federal No Surprise Billing Act was applied to the processing of this claim. Payment amounts are eligible for dispute following the Federal documented appeal/ grievance/ dispute resolution process.	Alert: The Federal No Surprise Billing Act was applied to the processing of this claim. Payment amounts are eligible for dispute pursuant to any Federal documented appeal/ grievance/ dispute resolution process(es).

RARCs N830, N859

RARCs N830 and N859 are **not** in the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*. These RARCs continue to be “Alert RARCs” and therefore do not meet the [CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criteria](#) for the Task Group to consider adding the RARCs to the *CORE Code Combinations*. As such, the modifications to RARCs N830 and N859 are not included in the Task Group March 2022 CBR Initial Straw Poll.

RARC MA33

RARC MA33 is currently included in the following code combination in CORE-defined Business Scenario #2 (Missing/Invalid/Incomplete Data from Submitted Claim) in the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022*.

CARC #	CARC Description	RARC #	Modified RARC Description	ASC X12 CAGC
CORE-defined Business Scenario #2 (Missing/Invalid/Incomplete Data from Submitted Claim)				
16	Claim/service lacks information or has submission/billing error(s). Usage: Do not use this code for claims attachment(s)/other documentation. At least one Remark Code must be provided (may be comprised of either the NCPDP Reject Reason Code, or Remittance Advice Remark Code that is not an ALERT.) Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.	MA33	Missing/incomplete/invalid non-covered days during the billing period.	CO or PI

1.

The modification to the RARC description (i.e., changing “noncovered” to “non-covered”) does not impact its association with that CARC or require association with additional CARCs. The code combination (with the modified RARC description) will be retained in the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.1 June 2022* and the code combination and the potential addition of the RARC to additional CARCs are not included in this Initial Straw Poll.

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If you have comments on the impact on the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* of the modification to the RARC description (i.e., changing “noncovered” to “non-covered”), please list them in the space provided below.

Section 2: Potential Compliance-based Adjustments for CARCs Added to the Published List

In the latest update to the published code lists, the CARC authors added the following CARC to the published list:

CARC #	CARC Description
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.
305	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Claim has been forwarded to the patient's hearing plan for further consideration.

The new CARCs 304 and 305 meet the [CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criteria](#) and can be considered for addition to the *CORE Code Combinations*. The CAQH CORE Staff and Task Group Co-chairs recommend the CARCs be added to CORE-defined Business Scenario #3 (*Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan*) and that the following code combinations using this CARC be considered for addition.

NOTE: The code combinations listed are those that are included in the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.0 February 2022* with CARCs 297 and 298, whose descriptions differ from those for new CARCs 304 and 305 only in that they refer to “vision plan” instead of “hearing plan”.

CARC #	CARC Description	RARC #	RARC Description	ASC X12 CAGC
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.			CO, PI or PR
		N130	Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service.	CO, PI or PR
		N216	We do not offer coverage for this type of service or the patient is not enrolled in this portion of our benefit package.	CO, PI or PR
		N658	The billed service(s) are not considered medical expenses.	CO, PI or PR
305	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Claim has been forwarded to the patient's hearing plan for further consideration.			CO, PI or PR
		N130	Consult plan benefit documents/guidelines for information about restrictions for this service.	CO, PI or PR
		N658	The billed service(s) are not considered medical expenses.	CO, PI or PR

Any CORE-defined Business Scenario(s) and RARC(s) submitted will be included in the Follow-up Straw Poll for consideration by the Task Group.

1. For each code combination identified, please indicate if your organization supports adding the code combination to CORE-defined Business Scenario #3 (*Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan*).

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	Support Adding to CORE-defined Business Scenario	DO NOT Support Adding to CORE- defined Business Scenario	Abstain
CARC 304	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CARC 304/RARC N130	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CARC 304/RARC N216	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CARC 304/RARC N658	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CARC 305	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CARC 305/RARC N130	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CARC 305/RARC N658	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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2. Please list any other RARCs that your organization supports associating with new **CARC 304** and **CARC 305** in CORE-defined Business Scenario #3: *Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan*

CARC 304								
CARC 305								

If you have more than 8 recommended RARCs to associate with new **CARC 304** and **CARC 305**, please list them in the space provided below:

CARC 304	
CARC 305	

OPTIONAL: You are encouraged to provide comments explaining your organization's position regarding new **CARC 304** and **CARC 305**. When providing comments, please be as thorough as possible and clearly identify to which specific CARC/RARC combination(s) your comments apply.

CARC 304	
CARC 305	

OPTIONAL: Per [CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criterion #17](#), should the Task Group support adding new **CARC 304** and **CARC 305** to CORE-defined Business Scenario #3, CAGCs CO, PI and PR will be included with each code combination. If your organization has any comments regarding the inclusion of CAGCs with the **CARC 304** and **CARC 305** code combinations, please provide them in the space below. When providing comments, please be as thorough as possible. Code combinations, please provide them in the space below. When providing comments, please be as thorough as possible.

- CARC 304**
- CARC 304/RARC N130**
- CARC 304/RARC N216**
- CARC 304/RARC N658**
- CARC 305**
- CARC 305/RARC N130**
- CARC 305/RARC N658**

End of Straw Poll

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Thank you for completing the Task Group Initial Straw Poll on Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE-required Code Combinations for CORE-defined Business Scenarios v3.7.0 February 2022*. Please click "Next" to submit your response.