

**CAQH Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE) Code  
Combinations Task Group**  
**Results: *Task Group Initial Straw Poll on Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the CORE Code Combinations v3.7.2***

Table of Contents

1	Straw Poll Background	2
2	Straw Poll Format	2
3	Summary of Respondents	3
4	Summary of Results – Section 1: Potential Compliance-based Adjustments for RARCs Added to the Published List	3
5	Support for Adding Code Combinations with New RARCs	4
6	Next Steps	5
	Appendix A: Summary of Results – Codes Submitted in Response to Potential Compliance-based Adjustments	6
	Appendix B: Summary of Results – By Stakeholder Type	6

## 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 v3.7.2 October 2022*. The Straw Poll addressed potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.2 October 2022* to ensure alignment with the publication of updates to the RARC list on 11/01/22. The Task Group Initial Straw Poll was sent to Task Group Participants on Thursday, 11/10/22 with a completion deadline of 5 pm ET on Wednesday, 11/30/22. *Doc#1: Draft Impact Analysis: Potential Compliance-based Adjustments to the CORE Code Combinations v3.7.2 October 2022* was sent to the Task Group as references to assist in completing the straw poll.

If Compliance-based Adjustments result from this CBR, they will be published by Wednesday, 02/01/23 as the *CORE-required Code Combinations v3.7.3 February 2023* 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 v3.7.2 October 2022* had one section which addressed:

- Section 1: *Potential Compliance-based Adjustments for RARC Added to the Published List*

For the newly added RARCs 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 in the *CORE Code Combinations*. Additionally, respondents were given the option to comment on their organization’s position.

**Table 1: Summary of Recommended Compliance-based Adjustments to CORE Code Combinations v3.7.2 October 2022 by Type of Code List Adjustment**

Type of Code List Adjustments	Total Published Code List Adjustments	Recommended Potential Impact on CORE Code Combinations
<b>Code List Deactivations in November 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 CARCs deactivated</li> <li>• 0 RARCs deactivated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Code List Description Modifications in November 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 CARC description modified<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• 0 RARC descriptions modified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Code List Additions in November 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 CARC added</li> <li>• 6 RARCs added</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• Two of the new RARCs potentially meet the <a href="#">CORE Code Combinations Evaluation Criteria</a> and can be considered for addition.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Note: at its September 2022 meeting, the code set authors agreed to modify wording to add a usage note to existing CARC code A1. However, this modification is to be effective 7/1/2023 and has not been published as part of the November 2022 code set updates. CARC A1 is not currently included in the *CORE Code Combinations* and the addition of “Usage: Use this code only when a more specific CARC is not available” to the description is potentially not a modification that would qualify the CARC for addition to the *CORE Code Combinations*.

### 3 Summary of Respondents

Responses to the Task Group straw poll were received from **72%** 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	25
<b>Total Number of Individual Organizational Responses</b>	<b>18 (72%)</b>
Number of Health Plan/Health Plan Association Responses	7 (39% of respondents)
Number of Provider/Provider Association Responses	2 (11% of respondents)
Number of Vendor/Clearinghouse Responses	2 (11% of respondents)
Number of Government Responses (State Medicaid Agencies, etc.)	2 (11% of respondents)
Number of Other Stakeholder Type Responses (SDO/Regional Entities, etc.)	5 (29% of respondents)

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

### 4 Summary of Results – Section 1: Potential Compliance-based Adjustments for RARCs Added to the Published List

Section 1 of the initial straw poll asked respondents to indicate their organization’s support for adding 2 code combinations using new RARCs N880 and N881 to CORE-defined Business Scenario # 3 (*Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan*). As seen in Table 3 below, the code combinations received low support (≤65%), as such CAQH CORE staff and co-chairs DO NOT recommend adding the combinations to the *CORE Code Combinations*.

The straw poll also asked respondents to indicate their organization’s support for code combinations CARC 96 with RARC N880 and CARC 142 with RARC N881. Please note, CARC 142 with RARC N881 was included on the straw poll in error. CARC 142 is not approved for use under Business Scenario #3. The results shown in table 3 below do not include the results for the errant code combination. Code combination CARC 96 with RARC N880 received low support (≤65%). CAQH CORE staff and co-chairs DO NOT recommend adding the code combination to the CORE Code Combinations. Respondents were asked to provide any comments their organization had regarding the code combinations RARC N880 and N881. Comments received are summarized in Table 3 below.

Additionally, the straw poll also asked respondents to submit any additional CARCs that their organization supported associating with the new RARCs in the CORE Code Combinations. Three additional CARCs were submitted. The initial straw poll also noted that, should the Task Group support addition of 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.

**5 Support for Adding Code Combinations with New RARCs**

The initial straw poll asked respondents to indicate their organization’s support for adding new RARC N880 to existing CARC 96 and new RARC N880 to CARC 142 to **Business Scenario #3: Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan**. Please note code combination CARC 142 / RARC N881 was included in **error** on the initial straw poll and is not approved for use under Business Scenario #3 and is not presented in the results. The straw poll also asked respondents to submit any CARCs that their organization supported associating with the new RARCs. Three CARCs were submitted for consideration and are listed in the [Appendix](#) of this document.

**Table 3: Support for adding new RARC codes to Business Scenario #3 with associated CARCs**

CARC #	CARC Description	RARC #	RARC Description	% Support	# Abstentions	Key Comment Issues	Recommendation	Task Group Decision
<b>Potential CORE-defined Business Scenario #3: Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan</b>								
96	Claim received by the medical plan, but benefits not available under this plan. Submit these services to the patient's vision plan for further consideration.	N880	Original claim closed due to changes in submitted data. Adjustment claim will be processed under a new claim number.	27%	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One respondent commented that since this CARC implies that payment was made, it is not a rejection and should not be added to any of the business scenarios</li> <li>Another respondent noted that RARC N880 implies the claim contained invalid data not that the billed service isn't covered, which is why they disagree it should be added to Business Scenario #3</li> <li>A third respondent stated that Business Scenario #3 is for Billed Service Not Covered by Health Plan and that. RARC N880 does not mean that it is with not covered by the health plan</li> </ul>	<b>Do not add</b> proposed CAQH CORE Code Combination.	

## **6 Next Steps**

A follow-up straw poll for the November 2022 Compliance-based Review will be distributed to the Task Group on Wednesday, 12/21/2022. The follow-up straw poll will include three potential CORE Code Combinations as respondents submitted 3 CARCs for review and 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 any 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, Friday, 12/16/22** to be distributed with the follow-up straw poll. CAQH CORE will distribute a template form on Friday, 12/09/22 that participants can use to submit rationale.

The CAQH CORE Code Combinations Task Group will meet on Tuesday, 01/24/23 to review the results of the follow-up straw poll and reach agreement on the final Compliance-based Adjustments to the *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.2 October 2022*. The updated *CORE Code Combinations v3.7.3 February 2023*, reflecting Task Group-approved adjustments, will be published to the CAQH CORE website by Monday, 02/01/23.

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

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

The initial straw poll also asked respondents to submit any additional CARCs their organization supported associating with new RARCs N880 and N881. Three CORE-required CARCs were submitted for consideration. CARCs 16 and 129 were submitted for RARC N880. CARC 96 was submitted for RARC N881. These 3 potential code combinations will be included in the Follow-Up Straw Poll.

**Appendix B: Summary of Results – By Stakeholder Type**

**Table B.1: Support for Adding New Code Combinations by Stakeholder Type**

Proposed Code Combo	CARC Description	% Support	% Health Plans	% Providers	% Other
CARC 96 / RARC N880	Non-covered charge(s). 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.) Usage: Refer to the 835 Healthcare Policy Identification Segment (loop 2110 Service Payment Information REF), if present.	27%	50%	25%	50%