

**Phase I CORE 101 Eligibility and Benefits Pledge**  
**version 1.1.0 March 2011**

The Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH<sup>®</sup>) has created the Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE<sup>®</sup>). CORE's mission is to use common business rules (the "Operating Rules") to promote interaction of healthcare trading partners and the exchange of healthcare-related information in a consistent, clear, and standardized manner and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Developing consistency between trading partners, and thus promoting interoperability, would benefit the healthcare industry by improving the usefulness of healthcare information and reducing administrative costs for stakeholders involved in healthcare data exchange. CORE's vision (the "CORE Vision") is attached as Exhibit A.

Phase I of CORE's mission is focused on promulgating Operating Rules to increase the usefulness of, and reduce the administrative challenges associated with, eligibility and benefit inquiries by giving providers access to a patient's eligibility information at the time of service (or before) using the provider's preferred electronic means. Subsequent phases will broaden the Operating Rules to expand the Operating Rules surrounding eligibility and benefit inquiries and to include additional administrative transaction types consistent with the CORE Vision. As additional Operating Rules are promulgated in subsequent phases, Participant and CORE may incorporate those additional Operating Rules into this Pledge by executing a separate addendum that incorporates the additional Operating Rules into this Pledge. The CORE Phase I Operating Rules are attached as Exhibit B.

\_\_\_\_\_ ("Participant") hereby endorses CORE's mission.

In furtherance of CORE's mission, Participant pledges to adopt, implement, and comply with the CORE Operating Rules as promulgated by CORE and in effect as of the date of this Pledge, in accordance with the timeframes set forth in the Phase I CORE Operating Rules, as and to the extent applicable to Participant's business. In addition, Participant pledges to use reasonable efforts to encourage Participant's trading partners to use the CORE Operating Rules. Moreover, Participant will participate in the CORE Certification Program described in the CORE Operating Rules ("Certification") to the extent applicable.<sup>1</sup> Finally, with the goal of improving the quality and utility of the Phase I CORE Operating Rules on an ongoing basis, Participant pledges to provide feedback (which may be either qualitative or quantitative) relating to the Phase I CORE Operating Rules.

By signing this Pledge, the Participant also agrees to be publicly recognized as a supporter of CORE's mission and an endorser of the Phase I CORE Operating Rules. CORE may use Participant's name and logo (as provided by Participant and subject to any reasonable restrictions around use of the logo provided by the Participant to CORE in writing) solely in connection with such CORE publicity. CORE will make any materials using Participant's name or logo available to Participant promptly after release and will respond to Participant promptly and in good faith if Participant objects to CORE's use of Participant's name or logo. In particular, CORE will discontinue any use of Participant's name or logo to the extent requested to do so by Participant in writing. Participant, at its option, may participate in the CORE Work Group responsible for designing CORE's publicity campaign "CORE Marketing Work Group." Participant may describe itself as an "endorser of the Phase I CORE Operating Rules" or an "endorser of CORE" as long as this Pledge is in effect. Participant may describe itself as "CORE-Certified" only after achieving certification in accordance with the Phase I CORE Operating Rules. Participant may not otherwise use the CORE name or trademarks without CORE's prior written consent.

Participant recognizes that the Phase I CORE Operating Rules have been developed by a team of representative members of the healthcare industry that have been coordinated by CORE through CAQH and the stakeholders participating in

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<sup>1</sup> This clause is meant to address entities that are not subject to Certification (e.g., associations or industry groups) and to address the differences in Certification applicable to different participant-types that are subject to Certification (e.g., providers, payers, vendors, and clearinghouses).

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CORE, and Participant agrees that neither CAQH nor CORE (nor their respective members, representatives, and/or agents) will be held responsible for the results of using the Phase I CORE Operating Rules in Participant's business and that neither CAQH nor CORE (or their respective members, representatives, and/or agents) shall have any liability to Participant arising from or related to the Phase I CORE Operating Rules or their use by Participant. Remedies for breach of the Phase I CORE Operating Rules are as set forth in the Phase I CORE Operating Rules; this Pledge does not create any additional remedies against Participant.

Participant recognizes that, as a standard, the Phase I CORE Operating Rules are being made publicly available for use by the healthcare industry in anticipation of broad industry adoption. As such, Participant acknowledges that it has no intellectual property rights in the Phase I CORE Operating Rules and that any intellectual property rights in the Phase I CORE Operating Rules are owned by CAQH and CORE.

Participant represents that its participation with CORE and this Pledge to use the Phase I CORE Operating Rules are entirely voluntary. Participant may withdraw from using the Phase I CORE Operating Rules at any time by submitting sixty (60) days written notice to CORE. In addition, CORE (including CORE as acting through CAQH) may terminate this Pledge upon written notice if Participant loses its Certification and such Certification is not reinstated within one-hundred eighty (180) days, or if Participant fails to obtain Certification within one-hundred eighty (180) days of execution of this Pledge. In the event of termination of the Pledge for any reason, Participant must immediately stop using all CORE trademarks, including any references to being "CORE-certified."

Accepted:

Acknowledged:

Participant:

Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare

on behalf of CORE

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_