Administration Simplification: Certification of Compliance for Health Plans

Definitions
- CAQH: Council for Affordable Quality Health Care. An organization that is making health care administration more simple and helping patients get better care through data sharing.
- CORE: Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange tasked with:
  - Making the electronic exchange of healthcare administrative data more simple, and
  - Supporting data sharing between payers and providers.

Background:
On January 2, 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) put out a proposed rule for health plans to certify that they are following the rules of the Administrative Simplification part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The rule says that:
- Health plans (including ASO groups) have to get either a CAQH/CORE “seal” or a “HIPAA Credential” that shows that they meet HIPAA electronic standard transactions, and
- Health plans (including ASO groups) have to send proof that they got this certification to HHS by December 31, 2015 for large health plans (those with $5M or more in health care costs).

Our readiness
We are looking at this proposed rule and what it means for us and our clients – both self-funded (ASO) and fully insured. We need more data, which should be in the final rule, so that we can develop a plan for compliance.

HPID – Health Plan Identifier
For information specific to the Health Plan Identifier, please click here.

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