**Alabama Medicaid Receives CAQH CORE Certification for ACA Rule Phase III**

On July 30, 2015, Alabama Medicaid Agency received CAQH (Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare) Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE®) certification for Affordable Care Act (ACA) Operating Rules Phase III.  Alabama Medicaid made the commitment to become CORE-certified and, as a valued trading partner, we strongly encourage you to also complete CORE-certification.  Access to eligibility, benefits, and claims data is improved with every organization that completes the certification process.

**Who Can Become CORE-Certified?**
Any entity that creates, transmits or uses eligibility or claims status data (clearinghouses, health plans, providers, information technology (IT) vendors) is eligible to become CORE-certified and receive the CORE Seal for Phase I (eligibility), Phase II (claim status), and Phase III (EFT and ERA). The CORE Seal indicates a company has successfully completed certification testing with a CORE-authorized testing vendor, ensuring its compliance with all the CORE rules. Click here to access all required documents to achieve the CORE Certification Seal.

**Who Can Become CORE Endorsers?**
Entities that do not create, transmit or use eligibility or claims status data, or are small providers, are eligible to become a CORE Endorser. Endorsing organizations are not eligible to become certified, but can demonstrate their support for the CORE mission and the rules by applying for and using the CORE Endorser Seal.  Click here to access all required documents to achieve the CORE Endorser Seal.

**Benefits To Vendors & Clearinghouses**
- Expanded and improved product offerings
- Access to standard and reliable payer coverage information that can be easily transmitted to the provider.
- Cost savings from not having to design and maintain multiple plan interfaces.
- Increased provider adoption of IT solutions.

**Benefits To Providers**
- Reduced time and cost to verify patient insurance coverage
- Reduced bad debt related to eligibility/claim issues
- Reduced staff time devoted to insurance inquiries
- Improved information available at the point of care
- Access to all-payer IT solutions
- Improved data accuracy -- information direct from the relevant health plan(s)
- More time to spend with patients

By implementing the CORE rules, CORE-certified organizations are speaking the same language, improving data consistency, reducing paperwork, advancing system interoperability, and supporting information transparency for consumers.

It's time to get on the same page. Get certified to use the CORE rules or become a CORE Endorser. Learn more by visiting http://www.caqh.org/core/core-certification.