



Introducing CCS and CCSP New Item Types

Background on New Item Types for the CCS and CCSP exams June 2011

The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) appointed a task force to conduct a comprehensive review of AHIMA's coding credentials and develop strategies to better position the credentials in light of the increasing competitive landscape and to pave the way towards 3rd party accreditation.

After a review of the Coding Credential Taskforce Executive Summary, CCHIIM approved the implementation of the new item types for the 2011 CCS and CCSP exams.

Outlined below are descriptions of each item type that will be presented on the 2011 CCS and CCSP exams, beginning July 7, 2011.

Description of the new CCS & CCSP Item types:

- 1. Multiple Choice:** One best answer item format requires the test taker to select the single best response from four (4) options. AHIMA certification exams currently utilize this format for all objective items. *Please refer to the screen shots that are provide at the end of this document.*
- 2. Multiple Select:** More than one answer will be required by the test taker (example: select 2 correct answers out of 4 presented, 3 correct answers out of 5 or 4 correct answers out of 6). Candidates will be prompted within the question on how many answers are required. *Please refer to the screen shots that are provide at the end of this document.*
- 3. Quantity Fill in the Blank (QFIB):** Used for medical record cases. More than one answer will be required by the test taker. Candidates will receive the exact amount of boxes that they will need to provide diagnosis and procedure codes for. *Please refer to the screen shots that are provide at the end of this document.*

FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions

Has the Delivery of the CCS or CCSP exam changed?

No. Candidates will still continue to test at Pearson VUE Professional Testing Centers both US based and internationally.

Has the content within the exam change?

The CCS and CCSP exam content has not changed. Candidates will still be tested in accordance to the same exam blueprint that is posted to the Certification Website. The Domains and Tasks have not changed.

Why did CCHIIM change the item types?

CCHIIM developed these item types to reflect the practical application of selecting and applying codes. These innovative item types will provide a more accurate measure of a candidate's knowledge and skills.

Will the new item types require more training or study efforts?

No. The new item types are testing the same skills and knowledge that the previous exam structure offered.

Did the exam time change?

No, the CCS and CCSP exams will still be four (4) hours in length.

Do you still have a separate CCS case book to for the medical record cases?

No. As an improvement to the CCS candidate experience the casebooks has been replaced with electronic cases. This means the medical record cases will be displayed on the screen.

Can you still use your code books for the CCS and CCSP exams?

Yes. Candidates will be allowed to use their code books during the entire exam.

Is there still two distinct parts to the CCS and CCSP exams?

No. The exam is one continuous exam without breaks. However the exam will be given in sections as shown below:

1. Multiple Choice
2. Multiple Select
3. Fill in the Blanks (assignment of codes)

Each section will have instruction on how to answer the questions. Candidates are required to monitor their own time throughout the exam.

How is the exam scored?

The exam is scored as follows:

Multiple Choice and Multiple- Select questions are worth 1 point.

Fill in the Blank items are worth 1 point per correctly assigned code.

Example:

Multiple Choice – Correct answer = 1 point, Incorrect answer = 0 points

Multiple Select – Correct answers = 1 point (*you have to select all right answers to get the entire question correct*), Incorrect answers = 0 points

Fill in the Blank – Correct codes = 1 point (each code that you enter will be worth 1 point), Incorrect codes = 0 points

- If the medical record cases requires the candidate to code eight (8) correct codes and the candidate only correctly answers six (6) codes, the candidate will have a point total of 6 for that medical record case.

Are the new item types more difficult?

No. The exam has the same level of difficulty as in previous versions. The exam is still testing the same knowledge and skills that are presented in the exam blueprint/content outline. The new items types are presenting the question in a new way.