



news

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Two AHIMA Certification Programs Granted NCCA Accreditation

Association Accomplishes Unprecedented Number of Accreditations in 2011

CHICAGO – November 30, 2011—The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) proudly announced today that the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) granted accreditation to AHIMA's Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) and Certified Coding Specialist-Physician-based (CCS-P) certification programs. Earlier this year, NCCA accredited AHIMA's Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) and Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification programs.

"AHIMA has achieved unprecedented NCCA accreditation on four certification programs within a 6-month period, said Michael Niederpruem, MS, MA, CAE, AHIMA vice president of certification services. "This exemplifies AHIMA's commitment to be a trusted broker of best practices, education and professionalism in the health information management industry."

"Attaining formal recognition for our coding credentialing programs is an exceptional accomplishment," said Lynne Thomas Gordon, AHIMA CEO. "Having these NCCA-accredited certification programs aligns with AHIMA's goal to ensure that we have highly-trained professionals meeting the growing demands of our industry. With the CCS and CCS-P certifications, AHIMA continues to educate and train our members to manage health information that can be best utilized to improve patient care as well as deliver quality operational outcomes."

AHIMA credentials are earned through a challenging program of examinations, education and experience. The CCS credential demonstrates a coding practitioner's tested data quality, integrity skills and mastery-level of coding proficiency, while the CCS-P professional must demonstrate similar skills in a physician-based setting.

NCCA accredits programs that certify individuals in a wide range of professions including numerous nurse specialists, respiratory therapists, counselors, and emergency medical technicians. The accreditation process involves a comprehensive evaluation of the certifying agency; characteristics of the certification program; information required to be available to applicants, certificants, and the public; and recertification initiatives of the certifying agency. To

maintain NCCA accreditation, certification bodies such as AHIMA are required to consistently adhere to a set of requirements or procedures related to quality, openness and due process. AHIMA is part of an elite group of 100 organizations that have received and maintained NCCA accreditation.

About AHIMA

Representing more than 63,000 specially educated Health Information Management professionals in the United States and around the world, the American Health Information Management Association is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. www.ahima.org

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