Background on New Item Types for the CCS-P exams:

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 CCS-P exam.

Outlined below are descriptions of each item type that is presented on the CCS-P exam.

**Description of the CCS-P 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 provided at the end of this document.*
FAQ's – Frequently Asked Questions

Has the Delivery of the CCS-P 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-P 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-P exam will still be four (4) hours in length.

Can you still use your code books for the CCS-P exam?

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

Is there still two distinct parts to the CCS-P exam?

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.
Example of the CCS-P intro screen:

Certified Coding Specialist–Physician-based (CCS-P) Exam - Candidate Name

Features of the Exam

- The exam questions will be presented in three sections.
- You may use your codebooks to complete the questions on this exam.
- You will not be allowed to skip a question. Instead, you must select an answer before moving on to the next question.
- At the end of the exam you will be able to review and change your answers.

Information that will be available during the exam:

- To review a specific question at the end of the exam, click Flag for Review in the upper right corner of the screen.
- The Time Remaining in the exam will be displayed in the upper right corner of the screen.

When you are ready to begin the exam, select the Next button.
Sample of CCS-P Multiple Choice intro screen:

Certified Coding Specialist–Physician-based (CCS-P) Exam - Candidate Name

Multiple Choice Items

- Make sure to manage your time wisely. You will have four (4) hours to complete the entire exam.
- You will now begin the Multiple Choice section of the exam.
- This section contains 88 Multiple Choice items.
- Each item requires only one response.
- If you want to move forward or skip a question, you must select one answer. Please ensure you mark "Flag for Review" in the top right corner before you move to your next question.
- If an item is marked as "Flag for Review" and you run out of time, the response(s) you previously selected will be scored.
Sample of CCS-P Multiple Response into screen:

Certified Coding Specialist–Physician-based (CCS-P) Exam - Candidate Name

Multiple Response Items

- You will now begin the Multiple Response section of the exam.

- This section contains 8 Multiple Response items.

- Each item contains instructions on how many responses to select.

- If you want to move forward or skip a question, you must select as many responses as directed. Please ensure you mark “Flag for Review” in the top right corner before you move to your next question.

- If an item is marked as “Flag for Review” and you run out of time, the response(s) you previously selected will be scored.
Sample of CCS-P Medical Record Case into screen:

Certified Coding Specialist–Physician-based (CCS-P) Exam - Candidate Name

CCS-P Medical Records Cases

- You will now begin the CCS-P Medical Records Cases section of the exam.
- This section contains 13 CCS-P Medical Records Cases.
- Case instructions and Coding Guidelines are available to view on each case item.
- To skip a case or move forward, you must enter one single alphanumeric code in each diagnosis or procedure box presented on the right-side of the screen.
- If an item is marked as "Flag for Review" and you run out of time, the response(s) you previously selected will be scored.
Sample of CCS-P Medical Record Case and answer key:

Case Instructions

Case 1
CODE THE APPROPRIATE PHYSICIAN SERVICES

To view this health record:
- Click on the tabs above.
- Scroll to the bottom of each document.
- For your reference, the Coding Instructions tab includes information from your codebooks.

To answer the questions in this case:
- Enter the appropriate codes in the boxes on the right.
- Enter a DX or PR code in every box.
- Any necessary decimal point (.) must be present and correctly placed.
- Do not include any spaces with your answer.

Coding Instructions

Enter a DX or PR code in every box below.

DX1
DX2
PR1
PR2

When you have completed this case, select Next.