

Certified Coding Specialist – Physician-Based (CCSP) Examination Content Outline (Effective May 1, 2018)

Number of Questions on Exam:

97 multiple-choice questions (79 scored/18 pretest)

8 medical scenarios (6 scored/2 pretest)

Exam Time: 4 hours – no breaks

Domain 1 - Clinical Documentation (10-14%)

Tasks:

1. Identify the provider type
2. Verify documentation requirements (e.g., signature, date of service, DD)
3. Review documentation to support the diagnoses and procedures/services
4. Query provider to verify documentation

Domain 2 - Diagnosis Coding (28-32%)

Tasks:

1. Review clinical documentation
2. Assign ICD-10-CM codes
3. Sequence ICD-10-CM codes

Domain 3 - Procedure Coding (28-32%)

Tasks:

1. Review clinical documentation
2. Assign CPT/HCPCS codes and append modifiers
3. Sequence CPT/HCPCS codes

Domain 4 - Reporting Requirements for Provider Based Services (10-14%)

Tasks:

1. Identify chief complaint/reason for encounter
2. Validate medical necessity for relationship of diagnosis to procedure/services
3. Identify the location and type of service (e.g., admission, discharge, TCM, CCM)

Domain 5 - Data Quality and Management (4-8%)

Tasks:

1. Verify components/elements of documentation
2. Verify author(s) of documentation
3. Review record for cloning (copy & paste)
4. Audit coding and documentation trends
5. Research payor or vendor requirements
6. Resolve coding edits

Domain 6 - Health Information Technology (2%)

Tasks:

1. Retrieve patient information (chart/EHR)
2. Create or modify clinical documentation templates for EHR

3. Build coding rules into software
4. Reconcile daily procedures
5. Generate code utilization reports

Domain 7 - Privacy, Confidentiality, Legal, and Ethical Issues (2%)

Tasks:

1. Report privacy and security concerns
2. Apply AHIMA code of ethics/standards of ethical coding

Domain 8 - Compliance (4-8%)

Tasks:

1. Review annual OIG work plan
2. Apply organizational and national compliance policies and procedures
3. Maintain coding compliance plan
4. Report compliance concerns
5. Educate providers or ancillary staff (directly or indirectly)
6. Audit providers on coding/documentation compliance
7. Educate providers on coding audit results, code revisions, and guidelines