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Welcome to *Certification Connection*

Welcome to *Certification Connection*, created exclusively for HIM certified professionals. Each quarterly issue contains information on professional development, industry news, continuing education, announcements, upcoming events, and other tools for your success—all designed with you in mind.

If you know a certified professional who should be receiving *Certification Connection*, please forward this newsletter to him or her to [subscribe](#). Look for the next issue in January.

CCHIIM Responds to HHS Final Rule on ICD-10 Implementation

The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) previously released the following timeline illustrating when all eight AHIMA exams will become ICD-10 compliant:

- RHIA, RHIT, CCS, CCS-P and CCA: April 1, 2014
- CDIP: on July 1, 2014
- CHDA and CHPS: January 1, 2015

Following the final rule by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), changing the implementation deadline for the transition to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS from October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2014, CCHIIM announces that all AHIMA certified professional will have an additional year to obtain their required ICD-10 continuing education units (CEUs) due to the one-year delay in the ICD-10 implementation deadline. All AHIMA certified professionals must report the required number of ICD-10 CEUs by **December 31, 2014**.

New Details on ICD-10 Recertification for AHIMA-Certified Professionals

Preparation has begun for the transition to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. As the transition quickly grows closer, it is critical that all AHIMA-certified professionals are ready to adapt to the new changes. CCHIIM's new recertification policy specific to ICD-10-CM/PCS is an important guide designed to help prepare all AHIMA-certified professionals for whatever changes ICD-10-CM/PCS may bring.

The required ICD-10-CM/PCS continuing education hours determined by CCHIIM are applicable to the specific AHIMA credential(s) held by the individual. Earning these CEUs validates that certified professionals have gained knowledge of the new coding system and are able to integrate this knowledge into their positions.

The total number of ICD-10-CM/PCS CEUs required, by AHIMA credential, is as

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Events

October 23

[Application of ICD-10-PCS Root Operations](#)
Audio Seminar

October 25-27

[AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding](#)
Atlanta, GA

October 25-27

[AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis](#)

follows:

- CHPS – 1 CEU
- CHDA – 6 CEUs
- RHIT – 6 CEUs
- RHIA – 6 CEUs
- CCS-P – 12 CEUs
- CDIP – 12 CEUs
- CCS – 18 CEUs
- CCA – 18 CEUs

The policy was created to reflect the different needs of HIM professionals with regard to ICD-10-CM/PCS. To reap the most benefits from their continuing education hours, AHIMA-certified professionals are encouraged to choose experiences which relate as closely as possible to their job roles.

Some examples of educational opportunities to fulfill these requirements include but are not limited to:

- Introduction to ICD-10-basics
- Business impact and implementation considerations
- Understanding general equivalence mappings (GEMs)
- ICD-10-CM structure, guidelines, and conventions
- Clinical documentation improvement strategies using ICD-10-CM
- Biomedical science coursework such as anatomy and physiology and pathophysiology refresher courses

AHIMA-certified professionals are able to earn ICD-10-CM/PCS specific CEUs during until December 31, 2014. All certificants must complete their ICD-10 CEUs by 2014. Even if you are due to report this year or next year, your ICD-10 CEUs are not due until 2014. You are able to report some or all of the ICD-10 CEUs in your current cycle but are not required to report until the December 31, 2014 deadline.

Have you already earned some or all of your ICD-10 CEUs? You are now able to report CEUs via the [online CEU Center](#) in the ICD-10 domain. These CEUs will count towards your ICD-10 recertification requirement. CEUs reported in other domains cannot be counted towards this requirement.

[Learn more](#) about earning ICD-10 CEUs or specific education and activity recommendations.

Call for Volunteers: 2013 RHIA Job Analysis Taskforce

Several times throughout the year, CCHIIM issues calls for volunteers. CCHIIM is currently recruiting volunteers for an RHIA Job Analysis Taskforce. If you are a certified RHIA and would like to participate on this taskforce, now is your chance.

CCHIIM plans for and conducts comprehensive job analyses for each certification examination, depending on how quickly and substantively the competencies assessed change for a given certification examination. These job analyses are typically performed about every three to five years. Consistent with best practices, the job analysis process involves a diverse and representative sample of stakeholders, including recently certified professionals and employers or supervisors. These stakeholders assess the criticality of current workplace practices, skills, tasks, and responsibilities, with respect to importance and

and Procedure Coding
Newark, NJ

November 2-4
[AHIMA Coder Workforce Training for ICD-10](#)
Las Vegas, NV

November 5-7
[AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding](#)
Portland, OR

November 7-9
[AHIMA Coder Workforce Training for ICD-10](#)
Chicago, IL

November 8-9
[Health Information Integrity Summit: The Quest for Safe, Usable, Quality Data in EHRs](#)
Chicago, IL

November 15
[2012 Coding Clinic Updates](#)
Audio Seminar

December 4–5
[Certified Documentation Improvement Practitioner \(CDIP\) Exam Prep Workshop](#)
Las Vegas, NV

December 5-7
[AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding](#)
Las Vegas, NV

View a complete listing of all [AHIMA events](#) and [audio seminars/webinars](#).

frequency of performance. The results of the job analysis influence to what extent the competencies are revised for each respective certification examination. Ultimately, the job analysis process is a fundamental quality assurance component of the relevancy, currency, and validity of competencies assessed by each certification examination.

If you are a certified RHIA interested in volunteering for the RHIA Job Analysis Taskforce, please e-mail your resume to certification@ahima.org by **December 31**.

Exam Updates

New Eligibility Requirements

CHPS and CHDA

Revised eligibility requirements are now in effect. Candidates are now able to sit for the CHPS and CHDA exams with a combination pre-requisite of education and experience. For more details on the new eligibility requirements, www.ahima.org/certification.

CCS and CCS-P

Beginning January 1, 2013, the CCS and CCS-P exam eligibility will be expanded. Eligibility is established by meeting **one** of the following eligibility requirements:

- By credential—RHIA, RHIT, or CCS/CCS-P
- By education—Completion of a coding training program that includes anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, medical terminology, reimbursement methodology, intermediate/advanced ICD diagnostic/procedural and CPT coding
- By experience—Minimum of two years of related coding experience directly applying codes
- By credential—CCA plus one year of coding experience directly applying codes
- Other—Coding credential from other certifying organization plus one year coding experience directly applying codes.

For questions regarding the CCA, CCS, or CCS-P changes, please contact certification@ahima.org.

If you are interested in information on pass rates for AHIMA exams, [click here](#).

ONC Highlights the Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security Credential

Good patient care means safe record-keeping practices. Do not forget that an EHR represents a unique and valuable human being: it is not just a collection of data that you are guarding—it's a life.

—ONC's "Guide to Privacy and Security of Health Information"

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator (ONC), the Office for Civil Rights, and other HHS agencies have developed and issued a number of guidance, tools, and educational materials

New Jobs on the AHIMA Career Assist: Job Bank

MIS DIRECTOR
Athens, GA

MEDICAL RECORDS
MANAGER
Dallas, TX

EXPERIENCED
INPATIENT CODERS
Maine

ER FACILITY CODER
Brooklyn, NY

CERTIFIED INPATIENT
CODER
New York, NY

View more available positions. [Log in to myAHIMA](#) and choose the "Career Assist: Job Bank" link.



The [Communities of Practice](#) is a benefit of AHIMA membership. If you are already a member, [click here](#). For information on becoming a member, [click here](#).



designed to help you better integrate privacy and security into your practice. The **Guide to Privacy and Security of Health Information**, accessible from HealthIT.gov, discusses why privacy and security matter, where to go to learn more, and AHIMA's Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS) credential.

Help ID Key Credentials in Department of Labor project

The US Department of Labor (DOL) has invited the public to participate in a project to identify the key credentials that employers look for when making hiring decisions. This project will help employers to connect with qualified applicants and job seekers to invest their time and money in the credentials that are most likely to lead to a new job or career advancement. AHIMA members are asked to go to the DOL's online [Credentials Forum](#) to vote by August 31, and help make AHIMA certifications the credentials of choice. To vote at the site:

- Choose "click to join" in the upper right corner
- Choose "Healthcare Practitioner" from the top navigation bar
- Choose "Medical Records & Health Information Technicians" from the list of occupations; six AHIMA credentials are listed

After you've voted for AHIMA's credentials, click the "Invite" button on the top navigation bar to encourage your colleagues to vote as well. AHIMA will keep you updated on the results and next steps.

Coming Soon: ICD-10-PCS Flashcards Go Mobile

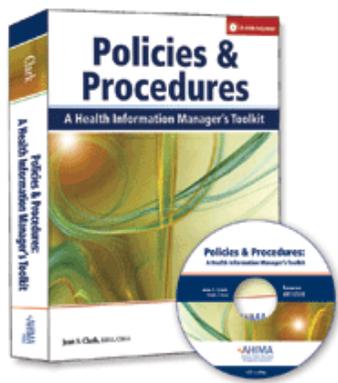


A mobile version of AHIMA's educational [ICD-10-PCS Flashcards](#) will be available soon for Apple devices and the Android phone, demonstrating the power of technology to transform learning, energize coding communities, and inspire innovative learning and thinking. The first step in mastering ICD-10-PCS is to become familiar with the terminology, structure, and format of the new code set. The app covers 31 medical and surgical root operations and the seven approaches, along with 16 cards that illustrate the character values of each of the of ICD-10-PCS sections, and will allow coding professionals to master ICD-10-PCS principles directly from an Android phone, Apple iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch.

Featured Publication: *Policies & Procedures: A Health Information Manager's Toolkit*

By Jean S. Clark, RHIA, CSHA

This comprehensive collection of policies, procedures, tools, and selected articles based on HIM best practices is designed to provide busy professionals with practical checklists, sample policies, tools, and informative reference articles to enhance the management of your organization's key policies and procedures.



Includes a CD-ROM with customizable versions of the HIM policies and procedures provided in the text.

Key Features:

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AHIMA recognizes coding certificate programs approved by the Approval Committee for Certificate Programs (ACCP). For a complete list of AHIMA-approved coding programs and HIM career pathways go to www.healthinformationcareers.com.