



Certified Documentation Improvement Practitioner (CDIP) Exam Content Outline

Domain 1 – Clinical Coding Practice (22-26%)

Tasks:

1. Use reference resources for code assignment
2. Identify the principal and secondary diagnoses in order to accurately reflect the patient's hospital course
3. Use coding software
4. Assign and sequence ICD-10-CM/PCS codes
5. Use coding conventions
6. Display knowledge of Payer requirements for appropriate code assignment (e.g. CMS, APR-DRGs, APGs)
7. Assign appropriate DRG codes
8. Communicate with the coding/HIM staff to resolve discrepancies between the working and final DRGs
9. Participate in educational sessions with staff to discuss infrequently encountered
10. Assign CPT® and/or HCPCS codes
11. Communicate with coding/HIM staff to resolve discrepancies in documentation for CPT assignment

Domain 2 – Leadership (17-22%)

Tasks:

1. Maintain affiliation with professional organizations devoted to the accuracy of diagnosis coding and reporting
2. Promote CDI efforts throughout the organization
3. Foster working relationship with CDI team members for reconciliation of queries
4. Establish a chain of command for resolving unanswered queries
5. Develop documentation improvement projects
6. Collaborate with physician champions to promote CDI initiatives
7. Establish consequences for non-compliance to queries or lack of responses to queries in collaboration with providers
8. Develop CDI policies & procedures in accordance with AHIMA practice briefs

Domain 3 – Record Review & Document Clarification (24-28%)

Tasks:

1. Identify opportunities for documentation improvement by ensuring that diagnoses and procedures are documented to the highest level of specificity
2. Query providers in an ethical manner to avoid potential fraud and/or compliance issues
3. Formulate queries to providers to clarify conflicting diagnoses
4. Ensure provider query response is documented in the medical record
5. Formulate queries to providers to clarify the clinical significance of abnormal findings identified in the record
6. Track responses to queries and interact with providers to obtain query responses
7. Interact with providers to clarify Present on Admission (POA) indicators
8. Identify post-discharge query opportunities that will affect (Severity of Illness) (SOI), Risk of Mortality (ROM) and ultimately, case weight



9. Collaborate with the case management and utilization review staff to affect change in documentation
10. Interact with providers to clarify Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC)
11. Interact with providers to clarify the documentation of core measures
12. Interact with providers to clarify Patient Safety Indicators (PSI)
13. Determine facility requirements for documentation of query responses in the record to establish official policy and procedures related to CDI query activities
14. Develop policies regarding various stages of the query process and time frames to avoid compliance risk

Domain 4 – CDI Metrics & Statistics (14-18%)

Tasks:

1. Track denials and documentation practices to avoid future denials
2. Trend and track physician query response
3. Track working DRG (CDS) and coder final code
4. Perform quality audits of CDI content to ensure compliance with institutional policies & procedures or national guidelines
5. Trend and track physician query content
6. Trend and track physician and query provider
7. Trend and track physician query volume
8. Measure the success of the CDI program through dashboard metrics
9. Track data for physician benchmarking and trending
10. Compare institution with external institutional benchmarks
11. Track data for CDI benchmarking and trending
12. Track data for specialty benchmarking and trending
13. Use CDI data to adjust departmental workflow

Domain 5 – Research & Education (11-15%)

Tasks:

1. Articulate the implications of accurate coding
2. Educate providers and other members of the health care team about the importance of the documentation improvement program and the need to assign diagnoses and procedures when indicated, to their highest level of specificity
3. Articulate the implications of accurate coding with respect to research, public health reporting, case management, and reimbursement
4. Monitor changes in the external regulatory environment in order to maintain compliance with all applicable agencies
5. Educate the appropriate staff on the clinical documentation improvement program including accurate & ethical documentation practices
6. Develop educational materials to facilitate documentation that supports severity of illness, risk of mortality, and utilization of resources
7. Research and adapts successful best practices within the CDI specialty that could be utilized at one's own organization

Domain 6 – Compliance (4-8%)

Tasks:

1. Apply AHIMA best practices related to CDI activities



2. Apply regulations pertaining to CDI activities
3. Consult with compliance and HIM department regarding legal issues surrounding CDI efforts
4. Monitor changes in the external regulatory environment in order to maintain compliance with all applicable agencies
5. Educate the appropriate staff on the clinical documentation improvement program including accurate & ethical documentation practices
6. Develop educational materials to facilitate documentation that supports severity of illness, risk of mortality, and utilization of resources
7. Research and adapts successful best practices within the CDI specialty that could be utilized at one's own organization