



Foundations of Pathology Coding Course Syllabus

Clock Hours: 10 (*Note:* 10 clock hours accounts only for time spent in the online course, and does not include time spent outside the course or study time. Study time will vary widely per individual.)

Course Length: To be completed at student's own pace within a 4-month period or less. Enrollment date begins at date of purchase. Monthly course extensions may be purchased.

Class Hours: Days/Times Per Week: Online course, independent self-study, no classroom meetings; student may login to the course at their own time schedule, no specific login times. Students may email course content questions to coaching staff.

Certificate of Completion Issued: Yes

CEUs: 10 CEUs upon completion (AAPC certified prior to enrollment; some certifications excluded – see AAPC website for more details.)

Course Description: This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the core principles, code sets, and compliance requirements essential for accurate pathology and laboratory coding. Designed for new and developing medical coders, this course covers the critical role of pathology coding in clinical documentation, surgical reporting, and data accuracy. Learners will explore the responsibilities of a pathology coder, the unique nature of pathology services, and the use of documentation sources such as lab and pathology reports. The course includes detailed instruction on CPT® coding for pathology services—including drug assays, molecular pathology, genomic sequencing, and proprietary lab analysis—as well as guidance on ICD-10-CM code assignment, diagnosis linkage, and payer policy considerations such as NCDs and MAC-based LCDs. Through real-world case studies and practical exercises, students will build the foundational skills needed to ensure accurate, compliant, and meaningful pathology coding.

Course Objectives:

- Explain the role and responsibilities of a pathology coder within various healthcare settings and how pathology services differ from other medical specialties.
- Accurately assign CPT® codes for a range of pathology and laboratory services, including drug assays, molecular pathology, and genomic sequencing.
- Apply ICD-10-CM coding guidelines to pathology-related documentation while adhering to appropriate documentation sources and coding limitations.
- Understand the relationship between pathology findings and diagnosis coding, including how to link lab procedures to medical necessity and payer policies.
- Evaluate pathology coding scenarios to identify coding errors and ensure compliance with national and regional (MAC) coverage determinations.

Course Content:

- Introduction to Pathology Coding and the Role of the Pathology Coder
- CPT Coding for Pathology and Laboratory Services
- ICD—CM and Compliance in Pathology Coding

Methods of Evaluation:

The instructional methods used include:

- Reading assignments – These readings are carefully designed at equipping students with the foundational knowledge necessary for understanding the basics of patient navigation.
- Check your understanding quizzes – These are concise assessments designed to gauge your comprehension and retention of the material covered in the readings. They serve as an effective tool to reinforce learning, identify areas for improvement, and ensure you are on track with your understanding of the subject matter.
- Interactive lectures – These are dynamic and engaging educational lectures focused on discussing specific topics and applying coding skills in a practical context. They are designed to foster active learning through participation, thereby enhancing their understanding and proficiency in patient navigation.



- Review Exam – This is a comprehensive evaluation designed to gauge your summative understanding of the chapter's topics. It also serves as a practical exercise in managing time during an assessment. It's an opportunity to reflect on your learning journey, identify areas of strength, and pinpoint topics that may require further study.

Grade Calculations:

Successful course completion includes:

- An attempt of all required assignments
- A passing score of 70% or higher on all chapter exams
- A passing score of 70% or higher on the final exam
- An overall final course score of 70% or higher

No reduced hours in the course or tuition discount for previous education or training will be granted.

Your final score is based on the following calculations:

Total average of Check Your Understanding quizzes - 30%

Total average of Chapter Review Exams - 35%

Final Exam - 35%

To receive the certificate of completion, it is required to complete all Chapter Quizzes and achieve a passing score of at least 70% on all Chapter Review Exams, on the Final Exam, and in the course overall. To receive a certificate of completion, students must successfully complete the course within the allotted time frame of 4 months or less (monthly extensions may be purchased).

Included Textbooks:

1. 2025 Foundations of Pathology Coding - Training Manual; AAPC; AAPC publisher

Course Enrollment Fee: Payment is due in full at time of enrollment. Fees listed do not include any required or recommended textbooks/supplies or computer requirements, which are to be purchased separately by the student. Prices are variable and subject to change, see AAPC website for most current enrollment fees: <https://www.aapc.com/training/cpc-complete-training-package.aspx>