



Certified Physician Master Coder for CPC-M Preparation Course Syllabus

Prerequisites: CPC® Certification or equivalent coding experience.

Clock Hours: 80 (*Note: 80 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 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: 40 CEUs upon completion (AAPC certified prior to enrollment; some certifications excluded – see AAPC website for more details.)

Course Description: This is an advanced course designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills needed for accurate, compliant professional fee medical coding. Through interactive case studies and practical application, learners develop expertise in complex documentation analysis, coding across multiple specialties, regulatory compliance, revenue integrity, and audit readiness. The course emphasizes critical thinking and defensible coding decisions using official guidelines, payer policies, and industry best practices. Learners also explore emerging technologies, quality programs, and healthcare regulations that impact coding and reimbursement. Upon completion, learners will be prepared to confidently apply advanced coding principles in today's evolving healthcare environment.

Course Objectives:

- Apply coding guidelines, regulations, and official resources to assign accurate medical codes.
- Analyze clinical documentation to support compliant, defensible coding decisions.
- Interpret payer policies, quality programs, and reimbursement requirements to promote coding accuracy and revenue integrity.
- Utilize coding technologies and AI tools while applying professional judgment and oversight.
- Validate complex procedures, modifiers, and documentation using critical thinking and authoritative guidance.
- Apply compliance, privacy, and security principles to support ethical coding practices.
- Analyze denials, audits, and coding trends to improve documentation, compliance, and reimbursement outcomes.
- Communicate coding decisions and audit findings effectively to support quality healthcare documentation.

Course Content:

- Advanced E/M Coding & Documentation
- Evaluation and Management Resources and Regulations Authoritative and Regulatory Guidance
- Surgical & Specialty-Specific Modifiers and Regulations
- Documentation Validation for Procedures
- Compliance & Risk Mitigation
- Denials Management & Revenue Integrity
- Quality Programs & Regulatory Adaption
- Technology, Informatics, & AI Coding
- Communication, Education & Professional Skills
- Privacy, Security, & HIPAA in Coding
- Final Exam



Methods of Evaluation:

The instructional methods used include:

- Reading assignments – These readings are designed to build the advanced knowledge needed to analyze clinical documentation, apply coding guidelines and regulatory requirements, interpret payer policies, and make accurate, compliant, and defensible coding decisions in real-world healthcare settings.
- 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 exercises – These are dynamic and engaging guided exercises focused on skill and critical thinking application in a practical context. They are designed to foster active learning through participation, thereby enhancing understanding and proficiency of a master coder.
- Experiential Learning (Practical Applications) – This is a hands-on approach to education that emphasizes learning through direct experience and active participation. It involves applying knowledge and concepts to real-world scenarios, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, and the development of practical skills.
- Review Exam – This is a comprehensive evaluation designed to gauge your summative understanding of the module'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 Chapter Quizzes - 10%

Total average of Practical Applications - 35%

Total average of Chapter Review Exams - 35%

Final Exam - 20%

To receive the certificate of completion, it is required to complete all Chapter Quizzes and Practical Application assignments 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. 2026 CPC-M Certified Professional Coder-Master - eBook; AAPC publisher

Required Code Books (Not Included):

1. CPT® Professional Edition code book (2026 year), AMA publisher
2. ICD-10-CM code book (2026 year), any publisher
3. HCPCS Level II code book (2026 year), any publisher

Required code books may be purchased through AAPC or any major bookseller.

Recommended Textbooks/Supplies (Not Included):

1. Medical dictionary, any 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>