

aapc cpc exam approved books

AAPC CPC Exam Approved Books are essential resources for anyone preparing for the Certified Professional Coder (CPC) examination offered by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). The CPC exam is a critical step for aspiring medical coders, as it validates their proficiency in coding skills, including understanding of medical terminology, anatomy, and various coding systems. This article will delve into the approved books and resources that can greatly assist candidates in their preparation for this important certification exam.

Understanding the AAPC CPC Exam

The AAPC CPC exam assesses a candidate's ability to accurately code medical procedures and diagnoses. It covers various topics, including:

- Medical terminology
- Anatomy and physiology
- ICD-10-CM coding
- CPT coding
- HCPCS Level II coding
- Compliance and regulatory issues

To successfully pass the exam, candidates must have a comprehensive understanding of coding guidelines, conventions, and the application of codes in real-world scenarios.

Approved Books for AAPC CPC Exam Preparation

The AAPC has designated specific books and resources that are approved for use during the CPC exam. These resources not only help candidates prepare for the exam but also serve as reference materials in their professional careers. Here are the primary approved books:

1. ICD-10-CM Code Book

The ICD-10-CM (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification) code book is crucial for understanding diagnostic coding. This book includes:

- All ICD-10-CM codes
- Official coding guidelines
- Index and tabular sections for easy navigation

Candidates should familiarize themselves with the layout and structure of this book as it will be a primary resource during the exam.

2. CPT® Professional Edition

The CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) Professional Edition is another essential book that focuses on procedural coding. This book provides:

- Comprehensive codes for procedures and services
- Guidelines for proper code usage
- Modifiers and the latest changes in coding

Accurate procedural coding is crucial for proper reimbursement and compliance, making this book indispensable for CPC candidates.

3. HCPCS Level II Code Book

The HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) Level II code book covers codes for services, supplies, and equipment not included in the CPT. This book is important because:

- It includes codes for durable medical equipment
- It provides coding for non-physician services
- It offers guidelines specific to Medicare and Medicaid

Understanding HCPCS coding is vital for comprehensive coding practices, particularly in outpatient settings.

4. Medical Terminology and Anatomy Textbooks

While not specifically part of the AAPC's approved list, having a solid grasp of medical terminology and anatomy is essential for CPC exam success.

Recommended resources include:

- Medical Terminology: A Short Course by Davi-Ellen Chabner
- Anatomy & Physiology for Health Professions by Bruce J. Colbert

These texts help reinforce the foundational knowledge necessary for accurate coding.

5. AAPC's CPC Exam Study Guide

The AAPC also provides its own CPC exam study guide, which includes:

- Exam content outline
- Practice questions and answers
- Test-taking strategies and tips

This guide is a valuable resource for understanding what to expect on exam day and for honing your skills.

Additional Resources for Exam Preparation

Apart from the approved books, candidates can benefit from various supplementary resources to enhance their study experience.

1. Online Courses and Webinars

AAPC offers online courses and webinars that cover essential topics for the

CPC exam. These interactive sessions can help reinforce learning and provide an opportunity to ask questions in real-time.

2. Practice Exams

Taking practice exams is one of the most effective ways to prepare for the CPC exam. AAPC provides official practice exams that mimic the actual test format. These practice tests can help candidates identify their strengths and weaknesses.

3. Study Groups

Joining a study group can provide motivation and accountability. Discussing complex topics with peers can also lead to a deeper understanding of the material. Many local AAPC chapters organize study groups specifically for CPC exam preparation.

4. Flashcards

Creating or purchasing flashcards for medical terms, codes, and anatomy can be a great way to reinforce learning. Flashcards are an excellent tool for quick reviews and memorization.

Strategies for Using Approved Books Effectively

To maximize the benefits of the approved books and resources, consider the following strategies:

1. **Create a Study Schedule:** Allocate specific times for studying each book and stick to your schedule. This will help you cover all necessary topics without feeling overwhelmed.
2. **Take Notes:** As you read through each book, take notes on key points, coding guidelines, and any areas where you feel less confident.
3. **Practice Coding:** Use real-life scenarios to practice coding with the ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS books. This hands-on approach will reinforce your understanding of how to apply the codes.
4. **Review Regularly:** Regularly revisit your notes and practice questions to keep the material fresh in your mind.

Conclusion

Preparing for the AAPC CPC exam requires dedication and the right resources. Utilizing the approved books—ICD-10-CM Code Book, CPT® Professional Edition, HCPCS Level II Code Book, and supplementary materials—will undoubtedly enhance your chances of success. In addition, employing effective study strategies, engaging with additional resources, and practicing regularly will help solidify your knowledge and build confidence as you approach the exam. With the right preparation, you can achieve your goal of becoming a certified professional coder and embark on a rewarding career in the healthcare industry.

Frequently Asked Questions

What books are recommended for the AAPC CPC exam preparation?

The recommended books include the AAPC's official CPC Study Guide, the ICD-10-CM Code Book, the CPT Professional Code Book, and the HCPCS Level II Code Book.

Are there any specific editions of the books required for the CPC exam?

Yes, it is important to use the most recent editions of the ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS books to ensure you are studying the latest codes and guidelines.

Can I use older editions of coding books for the AAPC CPC exam?

No, AAPC requires the use of the most current editions of the coding books. Using outdated materials can negatively impact your exam performance.

Is the AAPC CPC Study Guide sufficient for passing the exam?

While the AAPC CPC Study Guide is a valuable resource, it is recommended to supplement your study with actual coding books and practice exams for comprehensive preparation.

Where can I purchase the approved books for the AAPC CPC exam?

The approved books can be purchased through the AAPC website, major bookstores, or online retailers like Amazon.

Do I need to bring the coding books to the AAPC CPC exam?

Yes, you are allowed to bring the ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS books to the exam, but they must be unmarked and free from sticky notes or tabs.

What is the best way to study the coding books for the CPC exam?

The best way to study is to read through the coding guidelines, practice coding scenarios, and utilize end-of-chapter exercises in the study guides.

Are there any online resources that complement the AAPC CPC exam books?

Yes, AAPC offers online courses, webinars, and practice exams that can help reinforce your understanding of the material covered in the books.

How often are the coding books updated for the CPC exam?

Coding books are typically updated annually to reflect changes in codes and guidelines, so it's crucial to use the latest editions for your exam preparation.

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