

can you take the aapc cpc exam online

Can you take the AAPC CPC exam online? This question is often posed by aspiring medical coders looking to earn their Certified Professional Coder (CPC) credential from the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). The CPC exam is a crucial step for professionals seeking to validate their coding expertise in the healthcare industry. In this article, we will explore the details surrounding the CPC exam, including eligibility, testing formats, and the possibility of taking the exam online.

Understanding the AAPC CPC Exam

The AAPC CPC exam is designed to assess a candidate's proficiency in medical coding. It covers a wide range of topics, including:

- Medical terminology
- Anatomy and physiology
- Coding guidelines and regulations
- ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS Level II coding systems
- Healthcare reimbursement methodologies

Passing the CPC exam demonstrates a coder's ability to handle coding responsibilities across various healthcare settings. The exam consists of 150 multiple-choice questions, and candidates are given 5 hours and 40 minutes to complete it.

Eligibility Requirements

Before considering whether you can take the AAPC CPC exam online, it is essential to understand the eligibility requirements. Potential candidates must meet at least one of the following conditions:

1. Completion of an AAPC-approved medical coding training program.
2. One year of coding experience in a healthcare setting.
3. Completion of a medical coding apprenticeship.

These prerequisites ensure that candidates have the foundational knowledge and experience necessary to succeed on the exam.

Exam Administration Options

The AAPC CPC exam is traditionally administered in two formats:

1. In-Person Testing

Most candidates opt for in-person testing, which takes place at designated exam centers across the country. This format allows candidates to have access to resources such as coding manuals, which are essential for answering exam questions. The in-person setting also offers a structured environment that can help candidates focus.

2. Online Testing

As of 2023, AAPC has introduced the option for candidates to take the CPC exam online. This option is particularly beneficial for those who may not have a testing center nearby or prefer the convenience of taking the exam from home. However, there are specific requirements and protocols in place to ensure the integrity of the exam.

How to Take the CPC Exam Online

If you decide to take the AAPC CPC exam online, here are the steps you need to follow:

1. **Register for the Exam:** Visit the AAPC website to create an account and register for the CPC exam. You will need to select the online testing option during the registration process.
2. **Check System Requirements:** Ensure that your computer meets the required specifications. This includes having a reliable internet connection, a compatible web browser, and a functioning webcam.
3. **Prepare Your Environment:** Choose a quiet and well-lit space to take the exam. Make sure the area is free from distractions, and that you have all required materials close at hand.
4. **Complete a Pre-Exam Check:** Prior to the exam, you will undergo a system check to confirm that your computer and internet connection are suitable for testing.
5. **Take the Exam:** On the day of the exam, log in to the online testing platform at the scheduled time. Follow the instructions provided by the proctor and complete the

exam.

Exam Security and Integrity

When considering online testing, candidates often have concerns about exam security and integrity. AAPC takes multiple measures to ensure that the testing process is fair and secure:

- **Remote Proctoring:** The online exam is monitored by a remote proctor who can observe candidates via webcam. This helps prevent cheating and ensures that only registered candidates take the exam.
- **Identity Verification:** Candidates must verify their identity before beginning the exam. This may include presenting a government-issued ID and using biometric verification methods.
- **Exam Surveillance:** The online platform records the testing session, which can be reviewed in case of any discrepancies or concerns raised during the exam.

These security protocols are in place to maintain the credibility of the CPC credential.

Preparing for the CPC Exam

Preparation is key to succeeding on the CPC exam, whether you choose to take it online or in person. Here are some effective strategies to help you get ready:

1. **Study the Exam Content:** Review the exam topics thoroughly. Use AAPC's official study guide and reference materials to familiarize yourself with the coding guidelines and regulations.
2. **Practice with Mock Exams:** Take advantage of practice exams to gauge your understanding of the material and identify areas where you need improvement.
3. **Join Study Groups:** Collaborating with peers can provide motivation and support. Consider joining AAPC's local chapter or online forums to connect with fellow candidates.
4. **Utilize AAPC Resources:** AAPC offers various resources, including webinars, workshops, and online courses that can enhance your knowledge and skills.

Conclusion

In summary, yes, you can take the AAPC CPC exam online, providing a flexible option for aspiring medical coders. However, candidates must adhere to specific protocols to ensure the exam's integrity and security. By understanding the eligibility requirements, preparing effectively, and utilizing the available resources, you can set yourself up for success on the CPC exam. Whether you choose online or in-person testing, earning your CPC credential can significantly enhance your career prospects in the rapidly evolving healthcare industry.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I take the AAPC CPC exam online?

No, the AAPC CPC exam must be taken in person at a designated testing center.

What are the requirements to take the AAPC CPC exam?

To take the AAPC CPC exam, you must have a high school diploma or equivalent and complete an AAPC-approved coding course or have relevant experience.

How often is the AAPC CPC exam offered?

The AAPC CPC exam is offered multiple times throughout the year at various locations, but not online.

What is the format of the AAPC CPC exam?

The AAPC CPC exam consists of 150 multiple-choice questions covering various coding topics, and you have 5 hours and 40 minutes to complete it.

Can I reschedule my AAPC CPC exam if I can't attend?

Yes, you can reschedule your AAPC CPC exam by contacting AAPC customer service, but you must do so within a specified time frame.

Are there any online resources to help prepare for the AAPC CPC exam?

Yes, AAPC offers various online study materials, practice exams, and webinars to help you prepare for the CPC exam.

What should I bring to the AAPC CPC exam?

You should bring a valid photo ID, your exam confirmation, and any permitted resources, such as coding manuals, if allowed.

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