

CRC® Preparation Course

Course Instruction Syllabus • Self-Paced



Prerequisites: Knowledge of medical terminology and anatomy (or AAPC Fundamentals of Medicine / equivalent) is required. Current CPC® or equivalent credential is required unless the student is enrolled in a Full Program package that includes Fundamentals of Medicine.

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, live sessions, or study time. Study time will vary widely per individual.)

Course Length: To be completed at the student's own pace within a 12-month period or less. Enrollment date and start date are set by the instructor. Monthly extensions may be purchased.

Class Hours; Days/Times Per Week: Online course, independent self-study. Students may log in on their own schedule; no classroom meeting times required. Academy support: email help during the week and optional weekly meetings with the instructor.

Certificate of Completion Issued: Yes

CEUs: Pending approval - CEUs upon completion (AAPC certified prior to enrollment; some certifications excluded — see AAPC website).

Course Description

The student will learn principles of risk adjustment and accurate diagnosis coding. The course covers predictive modeling, the financial impact of risk adjustment coding, documentation challenges, official diagnosis coding guidelines, and diagnosis coding in ICD-10-CM. This course is recommended for anyone who is currently working in risk adjustment or wants to learn risk adjustment coding.

Course Objectives

- Define different models of risk adjustment (HCC, CDPS, HHS-ACA, Hybrid)
- Understand predictive modeling and its impact on risk adjustment
- Explain risk adjustment impact on financial matters
- Apply official ICD-10-CM coding guidelines
- Identify elements of the medical record
- Identify documentation deficiencies for diagnosis coding
- Understand the most common conditions in risk adjustment and how to properly code in ICD-10-CM

Course Content

- Pharmacology
- Risk Adjustment Models
 - Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC)
 - Medicaid Chronic Illness and Disability Payment System (CDPS)
 - Hybrid models
- Predictive Modeling & Quality of Care
 - Predictive modeling impact
 - Suspect logic
 - Quality of care
 - Star ratings
- Risk Adjustment and Financial Matters
 - HCC RAF score
 - Financial impact based on coding
- ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines
- Diagnosis Documentation and Coding

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- Common errors in diagnosis coding
- Elements of the medical record
- Documentation Barriers
 - Signatures
 - Insufficient documentation
 - Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) process
 - Official diagnosis coding guidelines
- Frequently coded conditions
 - Acute vs. Chronic conditions
 - Differential Diagnosis
 - Risk Factors and Comorbidities
 - Angina
 - Artificial Openings
 - BMI and Obesity
 - Cardiac Conduction Disorders
 - Cardiomyopathy
 - CVA
 - CKD, Dialysis, and AV Fistula
 - COPD
 - Complications of Care
 - Congestive Heart Failure
 - Cor Pulmonale
 - DVT
 - Dementia
 - Depression
 - Diabetes and Secondary Diabetes
 - Epilepsy & Convulsions
 - GERD
 - Hepatitis & Cirrhosis
 - HIV
 - Hypercholesterolemia
 - Hypertension
 - Hypothyroidism
 - Klebsiella Pneumoniae
 - Malnutrition & Cachexia
 - Myocardial Infarction
 - Neoplasms
 - Neuropathy
 - Pneumonia
 - Pulmonary Embolism
 - Pulmonary Hypertension
 - Respirator/Ventilator Status
 - Septicemia & Sepsis
 - Ulcers & Wounds
 - Varicose Veins

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- Vertebral Fractures
- Practical Expertise
 - Practical diagnosis coding skills utilizing cases for practical application

Methods of Evaluation

The instructional methods used include reading assignments, quizzes, practical applications, interactive audio/video lectures, chapter review exams, and a final exam. To receive a certificate of completion, students must successfully complete the course within the allotted time frame (monthly extensions may be purchased).

Successful course completion includes:

- An attempt on all chapter quizzes and practical applications
- A passing score of 70% or higher on all chapter review 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.

Included with this course

- AAPC Student Membership
- Medical Coding Training: CRC™ textbook (eBook)
- Pro Fee Bundle (eBooks)
- CRC Practice Exams
- CRC Exam Vouchers (2 attempts)
- Practicode CRC Practicum
- LMS student access (Blackboard)
- Pending approval CEUs on successful completion (if eligible)
- Live coaching twice a week (8 hours per week) on Microsoft Teams, plus Q&A as needed

Required Code Book (Not Included)

- ICD-10-CM (current year) is included in the Pro Fee Bundle. No separate code-book purchase is required for this package.

Computer Requirements

High-speed internet connection with a Blackboard-supported operating system and web browser; Adobe Acrobat Reader. Microsoft Teams is required for weekly Q&A. For best experience, use of a mobile device and the Blackboard app is not recommended.

Course Enrollment Fee

Academy tuition for CRC® Certification Course – Self-Paced Online is \$2,750. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Medicine (or equivalent). Payment is due in full at time of the enrollment unless a written payment arrangement is made with the Academy. Fees do not include the required ICD-10-CM code book or computer requirements. See current Program Tuition & Fees on the Academy website. CRC packages include AAPC Student Membership, Pro Fee Bundle (eBooks), CRC Practice Exams (3), CRC Exam Vouchers (2 attempts), Practicode CRC Practicum, LMS access, CRC textbook (eBook), 12 months curriculum access, and Pending approval CEUs (CRC).

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Instructor Support

Weekly Q&A is on Microsoft Teams. Questions may also be emailed to the instructor during the week. Curriculum and LMS access are provided through AAPC-licensed materials (Blackboard). Instructor: Danielle LaGravenese, CPC, CRC, AAPC Approved Instructor, Risk Adjustment Coding Academy.

This syllabus is an Academy student document based on the official AAPC CRC® Preparation Course outline. Module titles and completion rules follow AAPC requirements.