Department:

Health Sciences – Medical Coding

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to hospital reimbursement methodologies. The course will focus on basic reimbursement methodologies for inpatient settings, including Medicare acute and skilled inpatient reimbursement guidelines, Prospective Payment System, relationship between coding and Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) assignment, and coding compliance.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain coding and how it evolved in the American Healthcare system.
2. Describe the principles and applications of coding systems, including official coding guidelines and reporting requirements.
3. Assign, compare and contrast codes.
4. Explain how Prospective Payment System is applied in the hospital setting.
5. Explain how Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) are applied in the hospital setting.
6. Explain the relationship between coding and DRG assignment.
7. Explain the importance of coding compliance.
8. Describe Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Groups (MS-DRGs).
10. Describe Medicare Fee Schedule (MFS).
11. Explain case-mix analysis.
12. Describe the details of an Explanation of Benefit (EOB).
13. Explain the importance of Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) and their role in the payment process.
14. Identify and describe multiple compliance issues with coding and payment.
15. Explain multiple health plan claims processing and coding.
17. Audit and monitor the coding process for regulatory compliance.
18. Describe third-party payers.
19. Explain charge masters and describe the maintenance of charge masters.
20. Authenticate codes.
21. Explain the Coding Compliance Initiative (CCI).
22. Describe the function of an Advanced Beneficiary Notice (ABN) and explain how to obtain an ABN from the patient.
23. Identify and use key terms and abbreviations.
   a. Make reasonable judgments after gathering, analyzing, and evaluating information.
   b. Obtain data using technological and traditional processes.
c. Communicate with varying audiences and technologies.

d. Apply interpersonal skill and knowledge to actual situations.

Course Content:

A. Overview of Prospective Payment System
B. Introduction to Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs) and Assignment
C. Coding Compliance and Sources to Ensure Coding Compliance
D. Explanation of Benefits for Inpatient from Medicare and Other Third-Party Payers
E. Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Groups (MS-DRGs)
F. Medicare Fee Schedule
G. Case Mix Analysis
H. Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS)
I. Advanced Beneficiary Notice
J. Quality Improvement Organizations and How Audits Are Conducted
K. Submitting Health Care Information for Payment to Third-Party Payers
L. Regulatory Compliance Issues
M. Creating and Conducting Monitoring Methods for Coding Compliance Issues
N. Charge Master Creation and Maintenance

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of discussion questions, graded assignments, comprehensive assignments, research paper, quizzes, and exams.

Instructional Materials:


Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.