



## ICD – 10 CONTINUING EDUCATION POLICY

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is this a new requirement?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Who is required to report ICD-10 CEUs and what is the deadline for reporting?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
I just earned my AHIMA credential this year; do I still have to meet this requirement?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
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Is there a way to change the domain to ICD-10 for past CEUs recorded under a different domain by mistake?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
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Can ICD-10 classes I took in college count towards my ICD-10 CEU requirement?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
I have already reported my ICD-10 CEUs; do I need to report them again for this cycle?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
I hold multiple credentials; do I need to submit the required number of CEUs for each of those credentials?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
I am concerned that recording the ICD-10 CEUs now will have a negative impact on my overall renewal cycle?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
Are the required ICD-10 CEUs in addition to the core number of CEUs I already have earned in this recertification cycle?	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>



**Is this a new requirement?**

No, this ICD-10 CEU requirement was first announced by CCHIIM in January 2011, and was extended due to the delay of the ICD-10 implementation. Notifications were sent to credential holders each time ICD-10 was delayed along with the new ICD-10 CEU reporting deadline. The goal of the policy is to ensure that those carrying coding related AHIMA credentials based on ICD-9 have received training in ICD-10. If you have already earned and reported the required number of ICD-10 CEUs at any time after January 2011, you have met the requirements of the policy.

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11/3/2015



**I just earned my AHIMA credential this year; do I still have to meet this requirement?**

Yes, any individual who has earned an AHIMA credential and took the exam for that credential in the ICD-9 version must meet the ICD-10 CEU requirements for their credential to remain in good standing. You will not be able to actually enter your CEUs into the CEU Center until January 1, 2016 so you are being provided an extension in reporting your CEUs until January 31, 2016 however, the CEUs will need to have been earned prior to December 15, 2015.

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### **What are considered acceptable ICD-10 CEUs that can be reported?**

Any CEUs covering ICD-10 topics that meet the requirement set forth in the CCHIIM Recertification Guide are acceptable and can be reported.

There is one change to the CEU reporting requirements that specifically relates to reporting ICD-10 CEUs. The change is that *any CEUs obtained after January 1, 2011 may be reported, including CEUs obtained prior to receiving your credential*. This change was approved by CCHIIM earlier this year in order to make it easier for you to comply with the ICD-10 CEU requirement while still maintaining the intent behind the policy.

If you still need to obtain CEUs, you can find an extensive number of products and services at the [AHIMA store](#). You can also report CEUs earned from other providers, including the following:

- Educational portions of programs of allied health and other relevant professional associations
- Educational portions of programs sponsored by organizations or vendors
- Telecommunications and teleseminars relevant to the HIM profession
- ICD-10 courses or training received while earning an HIM degree
- In-house training programs
- Providing presentations or publishing articles
- College credits

AHIMA Journal quizzes are another acceptable means for earning CEUs as long as the article covers ICD-10. Journal quizzes provide 1 CEU per quiz. These can also be found on the AHIMA store ([ahimastore.org](http://ahimastore.org)).

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11/3/2015



**I attended the AHIMA ICD-10 Training Academy in 2009, is this still an acceptable in meeting the requirement?**

Yes, when the policy was first issued by CCHIIM in 2011, it was stated that CEUs from AHIMA ICD-10 Training Academy's held prior to 2011 would be accepted for meeting the CEU requirement. The ICD-10-CM/PCs Trainer Academy provides 34 CEUs and the ICD-10-CM Trainer Academy provides 18 CEUs.

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**Can I count the Coding Self-Reviews I take annually as acceptable CEUs?**

Past annual coding self-reviews required to maintain certification **do not** count as ICD-10 CEUs since they were based on ICD-9. The 2015 coding self reviews are based on ICD-10 so these self-reviews (if completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>) will help contribute to meeting your ICD-10 CEUs. The self-reviews are assigned 5 CEUs and are only available to those holding the CCA, CCS or CCS-P certifications

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**What if I reported my ICD-10 CEUs in a past recertification cycle?**

The ICD-10 CEU requirement is a one-time occurrence due to the implementation of ICD-10. If you have reported your ICD-10 CEUs in a past cycle then you have satisfied the ICD-10 CEU requirement and your credential will remain in good standing.

To view past CEUs which you have reported online, log into your CEU Center and go to the “CEU Completion History” tab. Select the dates of the time period you wish to view and all CEUs which you have reported online during that time period will appear. All ICD-10 CEUs recorded from January 1, 2011 and after count towards the ICD-10 CEU requirement. If you have reported your ICD-10 CEUs under a different domain they will still count towards your ICD-10 CEU requirement.

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11/3/2015



**Is there a way to change the domain to ICD-10 for past CEUs recorded under a different domain?**

If the CEUs have already been entered and saved, currently there is not a way to update the CEU domain; however they will still count towards your ICD-10 CEU requirement. Although this is not a requirement, if you would like to let us know that you submitted some of your CEUs incorrectly, you can go to the following link and complete the survey so we have a record of your requested changes ([click here](#))

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11/3/2015





**When I try to enter my CEUs I am blocked from doing so; the entry window is “grayed out”?**

There are two potential reasons why you cannot enter data:

1. You received your first credential sometime in 2015 so you do not have access to the CEU Center until January 1, 2016. In this case, you will have until January 31, 2016 to report your ICD-10 CEUs. It is important to remember that the CEUs still need to be earned prior to December 31, 2015, or
2. You have already reported CEUs for your current recertification cycle. Unfortunately, the system will not allow you to enter additional CEUs for the cycle so you can go to the following link ([click here](#)) to report your ICD-10 CEU information – AHIMA staff will be sure your submittal is documented.

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**What happens if I do not earn the required ICD-10 CEUs by the deadline date?**

Not reporting ICD-10 CEU requirements by the designated deadline will result in your credential becoming inactive and potentially revoked. Credential holders have 3 months from their designated recording deadline date during which their credential will be in inactive status. If the credential holder does record the required ICD-10 CEUs by the end of the three month window, the credential will enter into active status once again; if the credential holder does not have the required ICD-10 CEUs recorded within the three month window, their credential enters into the revocation process.

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### **Can ICD-10 classes I took in college count towards my ICD-10 CEU requirement?**

HIM classes covering ICD-10 can count towards your ICD-10 CEU requirement. The CCHIIM Recertification Guidelines for reporting these types of CEUs are as follows:

- Post-secondary courses attended for credit, including guided independent study and regular college or university courses. Courses taken in pursuit of HIIM profession-relevant associate, baccalaureate, master, or doctorate degrees are included. Fifteen (15) CEUs for each semester/trimester credit; ten (10) CEUs for each quarter credit
- Completion of courses as part of the HITECH education programs (non-degree) created to educate health IT professionals who can facilitate the implementation and support of an electronic healthcare system. Twenty (20) CEUs per completion of a workforce role.
- Audit of academic course or relevant non-credit adult education course, including attendance at a college or university course with permission and following regulations, without completing necessary requirements for full formal credit. Course must be completed by the December 31 recertification cycle end date—six (6) CEUs for each semester/trimester credit; four (4) CEUs for each quarter credit

Correspondence and other formal, independent, online, or distance education study programs accredited by the National Home Study Council or prior-approved by AHIMA, which consist of readings and exercises submitted to a knowledgeable instructor for evaluation. Courses normally cover several lessons to be completed in a specific time period. (CEUs must be determined on an individual basis by CCHIIM.)

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**I have already reported my ICD-10 CEUs; do I need to report them again for this cycle?**

No, if you have already reported the designated number of required ICD-10 CEUs for your credential in a past cycle then you have satisfied this requirement.

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**I hold multiple credentials; do I need to submit the required number of CEUs for each of those credentials?**

Multiple credential holders must only satisfy the ICD-10 CEU requirement for the credential requiring the largest number of ICD-10 CEUs to be earned.

For example, if you hold an RHIA and a CCS, you are required to record 18 ICD-10 CEUs by the deadline date. If you satisfy this requirement, both of your credentials will remain in active status.

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**I am concerned that recording the ICD-10 CEUs now will have a negative impact on my overall renewal cycle?**

If ICD-10 CEUs have not already been reported in a past cycle, ICD-10 CEUs must be manually added to your current cycle in the CEU Center by the deadline date, not reported. CEUs should not be reported until you have satisfied the ICD-10 CEU requirement as well as your core CEU requirement for the recertification cycle.

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**Are the required ICD-10 CEUs in addition to the core number of CEUs I already have to earn for my recertification cycle?**

No, the number of ICD-10 CEUs required is included in the number of core CEUs required for a recertification cycle, not in addition to them. However, the ICD-10 CEUs would have needed to be earned during the recertification period.

For example, an RHIT holder who is required to record 6 ICD-10 CEUs by the deadline date must record an additional 14 CEUs by the end of their recertification cycle to satisfy their core CEU requirement of 20 CEUs per recertification cycle.

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11/3/2015

# Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM)

## Recertification Guide Maintenance of Certification

(Revised Summer 2014)



MX10426



COMMISSION ON CERTIFICATION





## CCHIIM Mission

Through certification, the CCHIIM ensures the competency of professionals practicing health informatics and information management (HIIM) worldwide.

## CCHIIM Vision

Professional excellence in HIIM through certification.

## CCHIIM Values

- The application of evidence-based best practices for certification;
- The validation of workforce competence through professional certification;
- The commitment to ongoing professional development, lifelong learning, and workforce excellence; and
- The recognition of CCHIIM-certified professionals' role in maintaining and enhancing quality health information for the safety of the public and the improvement of healthcare.

# CCHIIM Recertification Program

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## Purpose

The CCHIIM recertification (maintenance of certification) program ensures that CCHIIM-certified professionals demonstrate ongoing competence in the domain areas in which they are certified, through either maintenance or enhancement activities. For the purposes of recertification (maintenance of certification), CCHIIM further defines maintenance and enhancement activities as follows:

**Maintenance:** Completion of educational programs that provide updated training and skills to allow continued competence in HIIM by earning the required number of continuing education units (CEUs) in any of the HIIM Domains.

**Enhancement:** Completion of educational programs that result in expanded knowledge and skills to enhance professional growth in HIIM by earning additional CEUs in a specific HIIM domain. This is beyond the requirement to maintain certification.

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*Congratulations on earning your AHIMA professional credential!  
You've marked yourself as a leader and HIIM expert, and shown  
your support for the healthcare profession. But there's more to  
certification than that. Through it you've increased your  
chances for success in your chosen career.*

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## AHIMA Certification—Your Best Professional Value

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### Receiving an AHIMA Credential Means:

- Demonstrating commitment to your professional area of expertise, a dedication to quality healthcare, and a need to establish high standards in managing confidential health information.
- Offering ongoing value to your profession and employer through continuation of your personal education, allowing you to maintain your expertise and contribute at the highest levels.
- Having an edge over noncertified professionals. AHIMA certification signifies experience and knowledge, and validates professional competence for employers, consumers, and yourself.

### What Are the Biggest Benefits of Recertification (Maintenance of Certification)?

- Return on investment from the high value of being AHIMA certified
- Professional prestige helps you remain competitive in a tough job market
- Demonstration of your ongoing commitment and competence in HIIM
- Networking opportunities with similarly credentialed peers who share your level of expertise
- Reasonable recertification fees

### To Recertify You Must:

1. Obtain the required number of CEUs during your recertification cycle.
2. Complete your mandatory annual coding self-reviews (self-assessments), if applicable.
3. Participate in accepted and qualified CEU activities.
4. Report your CEUs on time.
5. Document your CEU activity for auditing.
6. Ensure your recertification fee is paid.

## Recertification Process

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### CEU Requirements for Single Credential

<b>If You Have A(n)...</b>	<b>You Must Earn...</b>
Certified Coding Associate (CCA)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews (self-assessments)**
Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews (self-assessments)**

Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS-P)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews (self-assessments)**
Physician Coding Specialist (PCS)*	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews (self-assessments)**
Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)	30 CEUs
Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)	20 CEUs
Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)	30 CEUs
Certified Documentation Improvement Practitioner (CDIP)	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Technology Specialist (CHTS)	20 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP)*	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Security (CHS)*	30 CEUs

\*AHIMA no longer offers these certification exams.

\*\*Each mandatory annual coding self-review is worth five (5) CEUs toward the total CEU requirement of a coding credential.

### CEU Requirements for Multiple Credentials

If you have more than one AHIMA credential, you must earn ten (10) additional CEUs per credential during your two-year recertification cycle. These CEUs may not be duplicated or used for more than one credential.

Credential	Required Number of CEUs
CCS and CCS-P	30 (20 + 10)
RHIA with CCS and CCS-P	50 (30 + 10 + 10)
RHIA with CHPS	40 (30 + 10)
RHIA with CHDA	40 (30 + 10)
RHIA with CDIP	40 (30 + 10)
RHIT with CCS and CCS-P	40 (20 + 10 + 10)

### Recertification Cycle

**Initial:** The initial recertification cycle for newly credentialed certificants (first credential obtained) begins the day after the credential is awarded, plus the additional two (2) calendar year recertification period. A credential is awarded when a candidate:

- Passes the certification examination, OR
- Passes the certification examination AND has successfully completed the academic requirements of an HIIM program accredited by CAHIIM (RHIA and RHIT early testing candidates). The academic prerequisite is confirmed when an official transcript is submitted and approved.

**Ongoing:** The recertification cycle for subsequently obtained credential(s) begins with the next cycle date for the first or initial credential. The next cycle date begins on January 1, and ends on December 31, of the following year.

### Example

If existing credential is:	Current cycle is:	After obtaining:	The new cycle for both credentials is:
RHIA	1/1/10–12/31/11	*CCS on 6/8/11	1/1/12–12/31/13

\*CEUs earned between June 9, 2010, and December 31, 2011, can be reported for the first recertification cycle only.

# Qualifying Continuing Education Activities and Calculation of CEUs

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## Continuing Education (CE) Content

CEUs must be earned within your recertification cycle and must be relevant to the HIIM field as presented in the HIIM domains to be eligible for CE credit. Eighty (80) percent of all CEUs must be earned within the HIIM domain (see Appendix A). The remaining twenty (20) percent can include participation in CE activities on topics not relevant to HIIM.

## Calculation of CEUs

Calculation of CEUs is based upon clock hours. One (1) CEU is given for each 60 minutes of attendance or participation that is fixed in length. Fractional parts of an hour less than 45 minutes in duration will not be considered a full hour credit. For example, a program that is 2 1/2 hours long is equivalent to two CEUs.

## CE Activities

1. Participation in educational programs on topics relevant to HIIM.
  - a. Educational portions of AHIMA meetings (national convention, state, local, or regional meetings)—*one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of participation*
  - b. Educational portions of programs of allied health and other relevant professional associations—*one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of participation*
  - c. Educational portions of programs sponsored by organizations or vendors on topics that maintain, update, or enlarge knowledge and skills relevant to the HIIM profession—*one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of participation*
  - d. Telecommunications and teleseminars relevant to the HIIM profession—*one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of participation*
  
2. Participation in formal educational programs of study that address HIIM-relevant subject areas.
  - a. Post-secondary courses attended for credit, including guided independent study and regular college or university courses. Courses taken in pursuit of HIIM profession-relevant associate, baccalaureate, master, or doctorate degrees, are included. All coursework and final exams must be completed by the December 31 recertification cycle end date—*fifteen (15) CEUs for each semester/trimester credit; ten (10) CEUs for each quarter credit*
  - b. Completion of courses as part of the HITECH education programs (non-degree) created to educate health IT professionals who can facilitate the implementation and support of an electronic healthcare system. All coursework and final exams must be completed by the December 31 recertification cycle end date. *Twenty (20) CEUs per completion of a workforce role.*
  - c. Audit of academic course or relevant non-credit adult education course, including attendance at a college or university course with permission and following regulations, without completing necessary requirements for full formal credit. Course must be completed by the December 31 recertification cycle end date—*six (6) CEUs for each semester/trimester credit; four (4) CEUs for each quarter credit*
  - d. Correspondence and other formal, independent, online, or distance education study programs accredited by the National Home Study Council or prior-approved by AHIMA, which consist of readings and exercises submitted to a knowledgeable instructor for evaluation. Courses normally cover several lessons to be completed in a specific time period. Certificate of completion must show that all coursework and exams were completed by the December 31 recertification cycle end date. *(CEUs must be determined on an individual basis by CCHIIM.)*

3. Publication and presentation of material relevant to HIIM.
  - a. Publication is the development of an original work, relevant to the HIIM profession, reproduced by written or electronic means for general dissemination to the public (unless required as part of work responsibilities—see section VI.6.a and VI.6.b).
    - Author of a textbook, workbook, or manual—*thirty (30) CEUs*
    - Editor of a textbook, workbook, or manual—*twenty (20) CEUs*
    - Author of an article in a research journal—*fifteen (15) CEUs*
    - Author of a chapter in a textbook, workbook, or manual—*ten (10) CEUs*
    - Author of an educational article in a professional or trade journal—*five (5) CEUs*
    - Editor of a professional or trade journal—*five (5) CEUs*
    - AHIMA course writing (for example, Virtual Lab, Courseshare, EHR Hybrid Environment six-lesson course)—*five (5) CEUs*
    - Author of an educational article in a local or state newsletter—*two (2) CEUs*
    - Reviewer of book manuscripts prior to publications—*one (1) CEU per chapter*
  - b. Presentation is the development of an original work delivered to an audience.
    - Speaker at an educational program—*one (1) CEU for each 15 minutes of podium time*
    - Panel participant at an educational program—*one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of podium time*
4. Independent study activities relevant to the HIIM profession.
  - a. Study groups devoted to topics relevant to HIIM—*one (1) CEU for each 60 minutes of participation*
  - b. Enrollment in one or more AHIMA independent study program modules (*CEUs pre-determined by CCHIIM*)
  - c. Enrollment in home study programs relevant to AHIMA core education content areas from organizations other than AHIMA (*AHIMA prior approval required*)
  - d. AHIMA post-test offerings accompanying a *Journal of the AHIMA* article or book published by AHIMA (*CEUs pre-determined by CCHIIM*)
  - e. Advanced research (for example, reading and analyzing material above and beyond one’s knowledge of the subject matter) in an HIIM topic area to support activities associated with an expert panel, workgroup, or task force of AHIMA or its affiliate—*one (1) CEU per each year*
5. Item writing
  - Item writing for AHIMA’s certification exams (*CEUs pre-determined by CCHIIM*)
6. Other activities
  - Substantive oversight and involvement of directed clinical practice on behalf of a Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) accredited program—*five (5) CEUs per student supervised with a maximum of ten (10) CEUs for student supervision allowed in each recertification cycle*

Substantive oversight and involvement includes, but is not limited to:

  - Creating a training plan and schedule of activities
  - Developing and assigning project(s)
  - Providing direction and guidance

- Conducting review of progress and providing feedback
- Conducting student evaluation at the conclusion of the project(s)
- Other Considerations: CEUs for other individuals assigned as mentors—*one (1) CEU for every 60 minutes of direct contact with a maximum of five (5) CEUs (five hours of contact) per student, and a maximum of ten (10) CEUs allowed in each recertification cycle.*
- Visiting AHIMA exhibits at a national or state meeting—*one (1) CEU per meeting*
- Participation in an AHIMA volunteer leader conference or work group (*CEUs pre-determined by AHIMA*)
- Internet educational offerings relevant to AHIMA core education content areas (*AHIMA prior-approval required*)
- Facilitator for an AHIMA Community of Practice (CoP or other online HIIM community)—*five (5) CEUs for one year service, per community, each year of the two-year cycle*
- Activities defined by the guidelines for approval of CE programs for state, local, and regional HIM associations
- Exceptional events recognized by the CCHIIM
- Taking and passing a HIT Pro examination—*five (5) CEUs per examination passed.*

### Non-Qualifying Continuing Education Activities

Examples of activities that do not qualify for CEUs are as follows. The list is illustrative and not intended to be all-inclusive.

- Responsibilities that fall within the normal parameters of an individual’s job description, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) staff meetings; (2) grand rounds; (3) preparation for and/or participation in accreditation and licensure surveys; (4) preparation of procedure, policy, or administrative manuals; (5) conducting tours; (6) participation in career day activities; (7) development of employee and staff training materials
- Published materials and/or presentations developed as a direct part of an individual’s employment
- Serving in a volunteer leadership role for AHIMA or any other professional organization
- Instructing or teaching a class
- Summarizing articles, audiotapes, or video

### Reporting your CEUs

To recertify, you can report your CEUs and pay the recertification fee online at [ahima.org/certification](http://ahima.org/certification). You can also report your CEUs by mail by submitting the following:

- CEU Report Form (located at [ahima.org/certification](http://ahima.org/certification))
- Recertification fee

Mail your completed CEU Report Form with payment to:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Nonmembers</b>
AHIMA	AHIMA
Recertification	Recertification
233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl.	Dept. 77-3081
Chicago, IL 60601	Chicago, IL 60678-3081

### When to Report

You may report your CEUs to AHIMA several months prior to your cycle end date but no later than three (3) months into the following year.

If reporting by mail, AHIMA must receive your report form and fee no later than March 31, or the last business day prior to March 31, following the end of your recertification cycle. This policy applies to all reporting deadline dates that fall on a weekend or holiday.

## Recertification Fees (plus any applicable late fees):

### Single Credential

RHIA	\$150
RHIT	\$150
CCA	\$50
CCS	\$50
CCS-P	\$50
PCS	\$50
CHDA	\$150
CDIP	\$150
CHPS	\$150
CHP	\$150
CHTS	\$150
CHS	\$150

### Multiple Credentials

Primary credential (based on credential hierarchy) fee, plus \$50 for each additional credential.

Credential Hierarchy:

- Upon completion of the requirements, a mastery-level coding credential replaces an entry-level coding credential. Once granted, the mastery-level credential is recognized and CEUs for this credential need only be maintained.
- Upon completion of the requirements, a baccalaureate or higher level HIM credential replaces an associate-based HIM credential. Once granted, the baccalaureate-based credential is recognized and CEUs for this credential need only be maintained.

*Note: Credential holders who are AHIMA members already have their recertification fees included with the annual membership fee (does not include mandatory annual coding self-review fee).*

### For CCS, CCS-P, or CCA Certificants

An additional mandatory annual coding self-review fee per coding credential held is required.

## Certification Status

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### Status Types

- a. Active—based on meeting the recertification requirements
- b. Inactive:
  - i. Based on failure to complete the annual coding self-review required for the first year of a certificant's CE cycle (for coding credentials only by March 31, of the following calendar year. The CCHIIM provides a three (3) month window (April 1–June 30) for credential holders to meet the coding self-review requirements.
  - ii. Based on failure to complete the recertification requirements on or before March 31, following the end of the CE cycle. The CCHIIM provides a three (3) month window (April 1–June 30) for credential holders to meet recertification requirements and report CEUs.

The credential(s) may not be used during the period of inactive status. A late fee is imposed to re-activate a credential to active status.

c. Revoked:

- i. Based on failure to complete the annual coding self-review required for the first year of a certificant's CE cycle (for coding credentials only) by June 30 of the following calendar year.
- ii. Based on failure to complete recertification requirements. Credential holders who do not report their CEUs on or before June 30, following the end of their CE cycle, will have their credential(s) revoked. Individuals may not use the applicable credential(s) once they have been revoked.
- iii. Based on CCHIIM appeals committee or AHIMA Professional Ethics Committee decision regarding misconduct.

### Reinstatement of Credentials

Individuals whose credentials have been revoked can apply for reinstatement and be returned to active status by completing the Intent to Reinstate Credential application, paying all appropriate fees, and meeting the requirements for recertification.

The CCHIIM provides three ways to reinstate a credential (on or before December 30, following the end of the CE cycle):

**Option A: Reactivate by CE**

- a. Submit an Application to Reinstate a Credential;
- b. Pay the appropriate fee;
- c. Obtain the required number of CEUs and submit all supporting documentation showing completion of activities. CEUs must be earned during the current and previous calendar year.
- d. Complete the current year's coding self-review (for coding credentials only)

**Option B: Reactivate by Portfolio Review**

- a. Submit portfolio for review and pay additional fee

**Option C: Reactivate by Exam**

- a. Retake the applicable certification exam

After December 30, following the end of the CE cycle, the only way to be reinstated and returned to active status is to retake the applicable certification exam.

An individual whose credential is reinstated will be officially notified by the CCHIIM that recertification requirements have been met. Upon official notification, the individual will be assigned a two-year recertification cycle beginning on January 1 of the year following reinstatement.

## Additional Recertification Processes

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### Audits

Each year a percentage of recertification report forms are randomly selected for audit. Individuals selected for audits will be notified in writing and required to submit verifiable documentation (for example, certificates of attendance or similar materials) for each activity listed on the CEU Report Form by the due date specified on the audit notification material.

Verifiable documentation can include certificates of attendance, program materials, or other information provided by the program sponsor that verify program date, length, and subject matter (that is, agenda, program outline, handout, meeting summary, or meeting transcript).

It is therefore recommended that CEU participants retain all records in their files for at least one year following



the cycle end date. Individuals who fail to respond to the audit request by the specified due date or are found to have submitted false information on their recertification form may be denied recertification.

### Waiver of CE Requirements

The Commission may for good cause waive or reduce the CEU requirement. Certificants may request a temporary or permanent waiver by submitting a written request to the Commission for consideration.

- a. Temporary Waiver—Temporarily waive recertification requirements due to extenuating circumstances or hardships (for example, financial hardship, illness, unforeseen circumstances, and natural catastrophes)
- b. Permanent Waiver—Permanently waive recertification requirements as a result of full-time retirement.

### Extensions

The Commission may grant an extension of time to complete the number of CEUs required for a CE cycle. An extension of time shall not relieve the applicant of the responsibility for completion of the CEU requirements for the CE cycle in which the extension period falls.

### Appeals

Individuals whose credential has been revoked or whose application for reinstatement has been denied may appeal to the CCHIIM. Additional information on submitting an appeal to the CCHIIM is available at [ahima.org/certification](http://ahima.org/certification).

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is recertification?

Recertification (maintenance of certification) is a process that ensures CCHIIM-certified professionals demonstrate ongoing competence in the domain areas in which they are certified, through either maintenance or enhancement activities.

### What is certification maintenance?

Certification maintenance is the completion of educational programs that provide updated training and skills to allow continued competence in HIIM by earning the required number of CEUs in any of the HIIM domains.

### What is certification enhancement?

Certification enhancement is the completion of educational programs that result in expanded knowledge and skills to enhance professional growth in HIIM by earning additional CEUs in a specific HIIM domain. This is beyond the requirement to maintain certification.

### What is the initial recertification cycle?

The initial recertification cycle for newly credentialed certificants (first credential obtained) begins the day after the credential is awarded, plus the two (2) calendar year recertification period.

**Example:** If you passed the RHIA examination on June 8, 2011, your recertification cycle begins on June 9, 2011, and ends on December 31, 2013, for a period of two (2) years. CEUs earned during this period can be reported when you recertify.

### What if I am an RHIA or RHIT early tester—when does my initial recertification cycle begin?

Once your transcript is reviewed and eligibility is confirmed, your recertification cycle begins the day after you passed your RHIA or RHIT certification exam.

### What do I need to do in order to recertify or maintain my certification status?

To recertify or maintain your certification, you need to earn your required CEUs within your recertification cycle and, if applicable, complete your mandatory annual coding self-reviews.

I currently have only one (1) AHIMA credential. How many CEUs must I accumulate during the reporting period?

### CEU Requirements for Single Credential

If You Have A(n)...	You Must Earn...
Certified Coding Associate (CCA)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews**
Certified Coding Specialist (CCS)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews**
Certified Coding Specialist—Physician-based (CCS-P)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews**
Physician Coding Specialist (PCS)	20 CEUs, including two mandatory annual coding self-reviews**
Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA)	30 CEUs
Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT)	20 CEUs
Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA)	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS)	30 CEUs
Certified Documentation Improvement Practitioner (CDIP)	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Privacy (CHP)*	30 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Technology Specialist (CHTS)	20 CEUs
Certified in Healthcare Security (CHS)*	30 CEUs

\*AHIMA no longer offers these certification exams.

\*\*Each mandatory annual coding self-review is worth five (5) CEUs toward the total CEU requirement of a coding credential

I currently have multiple (two or more) AHIMA credentials. How many CEUs must I accumulate during the reporting period?

### CEU Requirements for Multiple Credentials

If you have more than one AHIMA credential, you must earn ten (10) additional CEUs per credential during your two-year recertification cycle. These CEUs may not be duplicated or used for more than one credential.

Credential	Required Number of CEUs
CCS and CCS-P	30 (20 + 10)
RHIA with CCS and CCS-P	50 (30 + 10 + 10)
RHIA with CHPS	40 (30 + 10)
RHIA with CHDA	40 (30 + 10)
RHIT with CCS and CCS-P	40 (20 + 10 + 10)

### How can I earn AHIMA CEUs?

AHIMA offers many opportunities to earn CEUs through meetings, audio and Web seminars, distance learning courses, and other activities that qualify for CEUs. For additional information on these products, please visit [ahima.org](http://ahima.org).

### Can I use CEUs earned through organizations other than AHIMA?

Yes. CCHIIM accepts CEUs earned through other organizations, provided they qualify as valid CE activities and are relevant to HIIM.

### Can I get CEUs for college courses?

Yes. CCHIIM accepts CEUs earned through participation in formal educational programs of study that address subject areas related to HIIM.

### Can I earn AHIMA CEUs by earning another AHIMA certification?

No. At this time CCHIIM has not designated this as a valid CE activity.

### How can I find out how many AHIMA CEUs I have earned so far?

Currently, certificants will have to track how many CEUs they've earned during their recertification cycle. AHIMA is working on a technology solution that can collect and store CEUs earned by completing AHIMA-related educational activities.

### What fees are required for renewing my certification?

#### **For AHIMA-Certified Nonmembers:**

#### **Single Credential**

- RHIA/RHIT/CHS/CHP/CHDA/CHPS/CHTS \$150 per cycle
- Coding credentials \$50 for each coding credential held per cycle

#### **Multiple Credentials**

Primary credential (based on credential hierarchy) fee, plus \$50 for each additional credential per cycle.

#### **Additional Fees:**

CCS, CCS-P, and CCA credential holders must pay an additional mandatory annual coding self-review fee of \$50 per coding credential held.

#### **Examples:**

1. RHIT earns RHIA

- Year 1 = no fee
- Year 2 = \$150 recertification fee for RHIA

Based on credential hierarchy, the RHIA credential replaces the RHIT.

2. CCA earns CCS

- Year 1 = \$50 annual CCS coding self-review fee
- Year 2 = \$50 annual CCS coding self-review fee, plus \$50 recertification fee for CCS

Two-year total fees = \$150

Based on credential hierarchy, the CCS credential replaces the CCA.

3. RHIA earns CHDA

- Year 1 = no fee
- Year 2 = \$150 recertification fee for RHIA, plus \$50 recertification fee for CHDA

Two-year total fees = \$200

4. RHIT earns CCS

- Year 1 = \$50 annual coding self-review fee
- Year 2 = \$50 annual coding self-review fee, plus \$150 recertification fee for RHIT (first credential) plus \$50 recertification fee for CCS(second credential)

Two-year total fees = \$300

## **For AHIMA Members:**

Credential holders who are AHIMA members already have their recertification fees included with the annual membership fee (this does not include mandatory coding self-review fee of \$25 per year).

### **What should I do with my CEU documentation?**

AHIMA does not require CEU documentation at the time of recertification. You should not submit any paperwork, other than your recertification application and the accompanying fees. Please save all CEU documentation for one full calendar year following the date of your certification renewal, in case you are audited.

### **Do CEUs carry over from one reporting period to another?**

No. You can only report CEUs earned during the current recertification cycle.

### **What if I don't have enough CEUs to recertify or maintain my certification?**

If you do not report the required CEUs by March 31, following the end of your CE cycle, your credential(s) will be placed on inactive status. The CCHIIM provides a three (3) month window (April 1–June 30) for credential holders to meet recertification requirements and report CEUs before the revocation process begins.

### **What does inactive status mean?**

During inactive status, you cannot promote yourself as AHIMA-certified. If you reactivate your credential(s) during the inactive period (a reactivation fee applies), your certification will be reinstated and considered active. If you fail to reactivate by the end of the inactive period, your certification will be revoked.

### **What does revocation mean?**

If you fail to reactivate by the end of the inactive period (June 30), your certification will be revoked. Once your certification is revoked, you are no longer AHIMA certified and your certification can only be reinstated by the following three options:

#### **Option A: Reactivate by CE**

- a. Submit an Application to Reinstate a Credential.
- b. Pay the appropriate fee.
- c. Obtain the required number of CEUs and submit all supporting documentation showing completion of activities. CEUs must be earned during the current and previous calendar year.

*Note: CEUs accumulated after the end of the previous recertification cycle (December 31) can be reported for reactivation. However, these CEUs cannot be used or reported for the next cycle. Certificants who report or use CEUs accumulated after December 31 to reactivate their credential(s) will automatically be placed on the audit list for the next cycle. This policy also applies to certificants who are reactivated as a result of being placed in inactive status.*

- d. Complete the current year's coding self-review (for coding credentials only)

#### **Option B: Reactivate by exam**

Retake the applicable certification exam.

After December 30, following the end of the CE cycle, the only way to be reinstated and returned to active status is to retake the applicable certification exam.

### What is the yearly audit?

In order to ensure high standards of competency and continuing education, AHIMA/CCHIIM will conduct an annual audit. A randomly selected, percentage sample of recertification forms submitted from the prior reporting period will be sampled to participate in the audit. The audit will be conducted at each credential level. If audited, you will be required to provide documented proof of all CEU activity reported during the reporting period to the AHIMA national office within 30 days.

If you are unable to provide documented proof within 30 days, your certification will be considered inactive and you will have one year to complete the recertification process by providing the documentation or obtaining new CEUs. All audit paperwork is reviewed for completeness and accuracy by CCHIIM. If all paperwork is complete and the appropriate number of CEUs are earned, you will be notified that your credential is valid until the next recertification due date. If, after submission of CEUs, it is determined that some CEUs are not applicable, an appropriate amount of time will be allowed for you to earn additional replacement CEUs.

## Appendix A—HIIM Domains

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**HIIM Professional Domain Definition:** HIIM improves the quality of healthcare by ensuring the most timely and accurate information is available to make any healthcare decision. HIIM professionals manage healthcare data and information resources. The profession encompasses services in planning, collecting, aggregating, analyzing, and disseminating individual patient and aggregate clinical data. It serves the following healthcare stakeholders: patients, providers, patient care organizations, research and policy agencies, payers, and other healthcare-related entities.

Eighty (80) percent of all CEUs must be earned within the HIIM Domain, which is divided into the domain areas below.

The CCHIM provides the following list of examples of educational experiences. These educational experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Technology:** Application of existing and emerging technologies for the collection of clinical data, the transformation of clinical data to useful health information, and the communication and protection of information on analog (for example, paper or analog photographic film) or digital media (for example, magnetic tape, optical disk, CD, or DVD).

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Electronic health records (EHRs)
- HIIM software applications (encoders, patient information management systems, and chart management, CDI systems, and electronic queries.)
- Personal health record (PHR)
- Health information exchange (HIE)
- Speech recognition

2. **Management Development:** Application of organizational management theory and practices in addition to human resource management techniques to improve departmental adaptability, innovation, service quality, and operational efficiency.

Topics include but are not limited to:

- Project management
- Training and development
- Work design
- Employee hiring and retention
- Effective communication

3. **Clinical Data Management:** Applications and analysis of quality and clinical resources appropriate to the clinical setting. Includes database management, clinical documentation improvement, and coding compliance using CPT, ICD-9-CM, or other specialized coding systems within the prospective or payment system to ensure quality and cost effectiveness of the rendered services (for example, data integrity, quality of documentation, and clinical efficiency).

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- ICD-9-CM/CPT/HCPCS
- Prospective payment systems (for example, DRG and APC)
- ICD-10
- Registries
- RAC

4. **Performance Improvement:** Development and application of quality processes to ensure quality data is generating consistent, timely quality information. Developing systems that are flexible and adaptable in a constantly changing healthcare environment (for example, e-HIM®, regulatory changes, and new technology.)

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Outcomes data management
- Revenue cycle management
- Clinical practice guidelines
- Remote coding or computer-assisted coding

5. **External Forces:** Study of regulatory requirements and the development of appropriate compliance initiatives for policies, procedures, protocols, and technology for hospitals, specialty facilities, and other healthcare providers. Includes the development of systems (for example, e-HIM®) to implement required practices for the Joint Commission and other accrediting bodies and federal and state rules and regulations (for example, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and HIPAA).

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- OIG work plan
- HIPAA
- Compliance
- Legal or regulatory update
- EHR certification and incentive programs

6. **Clinical Foundations:** Understanding of human anatomy and physiology; the nature of disease processes; and the protocols of diagnosis and treatment of major diseases to include common drugs and laboratory and other tests used for the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Practice the ability to apply this knowledge to the reading, coding, and abstracting of medical information to support quality patient care and associated databases.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Pathophysiology
- Pharmacology
- Clinical intervention
- Diagnostic and laboratory testing
- Telemedicine

7. **Privacy and Security:** Understanding and application of current healthcare regulations that promote protection of medical information and the electronic transmission of health information. Acting as the patients' advocate, helping them understand their rights in regard to protected health information on any applicable analog or digital medium.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Release of information
- Confidentiality
- Personal health information
- Security risk assessment
- Security audit
- Privacy risk assessment







**Who is required to report ICD-10 specific CEUs and what is the deadline for reporting?**

Individuals who received one or more of the credentials listed below by taking exam(s) prior to the ICD-10 exam implementation dates below are required to report their ICD-10 CEUs by the deadline date.

*Remember, you only need to meet the CEU requirements once so if you have already reported sufficient ICD-10 CEUs anytime from January 2011 to now you have met the requirement.*

CREDENTIAL	ICD-10 EXAM IMPLEMENTATION DATE	# OF REQUIRED ICD-10 CEUS*	DEADLINE FOR REPORTING**
RHIT	October 9, 2015	6	December 31, 2015
RHIA	October 16, 2015	6	
CCS	October 5, 2015	18	
CCA	October 12, 2015	18	
CCS-P	October 19, 2015	12	
CHPS	N/A	1	
CDIP	February 2016	12	May 31, 2016
CHDA	February 2016	6	

\* Multiple credential holders must only satisfy the ICD-10 CEU requirement for the credential requiring the largest number of ICD-10 CEUs to be earned. For example, if you hold a CCS and a RHIT credential you would need to submit 18 CEUs to comply with the requirement.

\*\*Individuals who obtained their first AHIMA credential between January 1, 2015, and the last date of ICD-9 exam administration will not be able to access their CEU Center until January 1, 2016. **ICD-10 CEUs must still be earned by December 31, 2015**, however the deadline to report ICD-10 CEUs for these individuals is January 31, 2016.

[CLICK HERE TO RETURN TO QUESTION LIST](#)