

Medical Records Technician (Coder Inpatient or Outpatient)

Kansas City, MO

Summary

The incumbent serves as a Medical Record Technician (Coder) in the Health Information Sections (HIMS) of the Business Operations Service (BOS) Service Line. The incumbent is responsible for performing a quality review of patient care documents and assigning codes specific for the type of care provided.

Responsibilities:

- Assigns codes to documented patient care encounters (inpatient and outpatient) covering the full range of health care services provided by the VAMC.
- Selects and assigns codes from the current version of several coding systems to include the International Classification of Diseases-Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), and/or Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- Adheres to accepted coding practices, guidelines and conventions when choosing the most appropriate diagnosis, operation, procedure, ancillary, or Evaluation and Management code to ensure ethical, accurate, and complete coding.
- Performs a comprehensive review of the patient record to abstract medical, surgical, ancillary, demographic, social, and administrative data to ensure complete data capture.
- Assists facility staff with documentation requirements to completely and accurately reflect the patient care provided.
- Utilizes the facility computer system and software applications to correctly code, abstract, record, and transmit data to the national VA database.
- Uses a variety of computer based applications in day to day activities and duties.
- Conducts re-reviews of codes abstracted for patient encounters (inpatient and outpatient) identified by the Veteran's Equitable Resource Allocation (VERA) committee to determine if based on the documentation the specific VERA coding requirements were followed; corrects coding as needed to ensure proper patient classification in the VERA program.
- Codes inpatient professional fee services for identified inpatient admissions in support of the Medical Care Cost Recovery (MCCR) program.

Qualifications

Experience or Education: Candidates must meet one of the following

- One year of creditable experience that indicates knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, medical coding, and the structure and format of a health records.
OR
- An associate's degree from an accredited college or university recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with a major field of study in health information technology/health information management, or a related degree with a minimum of 12 semester hours in health information technology/health information management
OR
- Completion of a coding program, or other intense coding training program of approximately one year or more that included courses in anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, basic ICD diagnostic/procedural, and basic CPT coding. The training program must have led to eligibility for coding certification/certification examination, and the sponsoring academic institution must have been accredited by a national U.S. Department of Education accreditor, or comparable international accrediting authority at the time the program was completed
OR
- *Experience/Education Combination.* Equivalent combinations of creditable experience and education are qualifying for meeting the basic requirements.

The following educational/training substitutions are appropriate for combining education and creditable experience:

- Six months of creditable experience that indicates knowledge of medical terminology, general understanding of medical coding and the health record, and one year above high school, with a minimum of 6 semester hours of health information technology courses;
- Successful completion of a course for medical technicians, hospital corpsmen, medical service specialists, or hospital training obtained in a training program given by the Armed Forces or the U.S. Maritime Service, under close medical and professional supervision, may be substituted on a month-for-month basis for up to six months of experience provided the training program included courses in anatomy, physiology, and health record techniques and procedures. Also, requires six additional months of creditable experience that is paid or non-paid employment equivalent to a MRT (Coder).

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