

# CCDIP Exam Content Outline (ECO)

*Certified Clinical Documentation Improvement Professional (CCDIP)*

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## 01 Purpose of the Exam Content Outline

The Exam Content Outline (ECO) expands the CCDIP Examination Blueprint and defines the knowledge areas and professional task competencies expected of individuals responsible for clinical documentation improvement, coding compliance, CDI program management, and documentation integrity in healthcare organizations.

The ECO guides examination development, question writing, candidate preparation resources, and study materials associated with the CCDIP certification program. The domains presented in this document represent competency areas relevant to CDI professionals across a range of healthcare settings and program models.

These competencies reflect professional responsibilities associated with documentation review, physician query management, coding alignment, regulatory compliance, quality reporting, revenue integrity, AI-assisted analytics, risk adjustment, and CDI program leadership.

## 02 Relationship Between the ECO and the Examination Blueprint

The CCDIP Examination Blueprint defines the ten major domains assessed in the certification examination and the relative weighting assigned to each. The ECO expands those domains by specifying the detailed content assessed within each competency area.

For each domain, the ECO defines two categories of content:

- Knowledge Statements — describing the concepts, principles, and frameworks candidates must understand to demonstrate competence in each domain.
- Task Statements — describing the professional activities, responsibilities, and applied skills associated with clinical documentation improvement, CDI program management, and coding compliance.

The ECO is the primary foundation for examination question development and candidate preparation. Candidates should review both the Blueprint and the ECO to understand the full scope of content assessed in the CCDIP examination.

*Each domain in the ECO is presented as a two-column table. The left column lists Knowledge Statements — what candidates must know. The right column lists Task Statements — what candidates must be able to do.*

## Domain 01 Clinical Documentation Integrity Foundations

Knowledge Statements

Task Statements

— Core principles of clinical documentation integrity: accuracy, completeness, timeliness, reliability	— Evaluate clinical documentation for accuracy, completeness, and timeliness
— Relationship between documentation quality and patient care delivery	— Identify documentation deficiencies affecting coding and reimbursement integrity
— Impact of documentation integrity on coding accuracy and reimbursement	— Apply documentation integrity principles to clinical record review
— Common documentation deficiencies and their organizational consequences	— Communicate documentation quality standards to clinical and administrative teams
— Medical record standards and documentation requirements	— Assess the impact of documentation gaps on patient care and organizational outcomes
— Role of CDI professionals in sustaining documentation integrity	— Support development of documentation integrity standards and guidelines

## Domain 02 CDI Program Management & Operations

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— CDI program staffing models and competency requirements	— Design and evaluate CDI program workflows for operational effectiveness
— Review workflow design and case prioritization frameworks	— Apply case prioritization strategies to optimize CDI review processes
— Technology platforms supporting CDI operations and documentation review	— Assess and select technology platforms supporting CDI operations
— Performance metrics and KPIs for CDI program evaluation	— Develop performance metrics demonstrating CDI program value and impact
— Program sustainability planning and value demonstration strategies	— Report CDI program performance to leadership and governance bodies
— CDI program governance and reporting structures	— Identify opportunities to improve CDI program efficiency and sustainability

## Domain 03 Physician Engagement & Documentation Improvement Education

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— Physician engagement strategies and relationship-building in CDI programs	— Design and implement physician engagement strategies for CDI programs
— Effective documentation feedback delivery methods and communication approaches	— Deliver effective and constructive documentation feedback to clinical providers
— Targeted CDI education program design for clinical teams	— Develop targeted education programs addressing identified documentation gaps
— Barriers to physician engagement and strategies to overcome them	— Foster collaboration between CDI professionals and clinical teams

— Culture of documentation excellence — principles and development strategies	— Measure physician engagement effectiveness and adjust strategies accordingly
— Advanced practitioner roles and documentation responsibilities in CDI	— Support organizational culture development around documentation excellence

## Domain 04 Compliant Query Methodology & Clinical Validation

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— Compliant query writing standards, guidelines, and industry requirements	— Write compliant physician queries that meet established industry standards
— Clinical validation methodologies for diagnosis confirmation and specificity	— Perform clinical validation of diagnoses using available clinical indicators
— Query types, formats, and appropriate application in CDI practice	— Evaluate queries for compliance with specificity and language standards
— Leading and inappropriate query language — identification and avoidance	— Distinguish compliant from non-compliant query practices and correct deficiencies
— Query response management, follow-up, and tracking processes	— Manage query response processes including follow-up and outcome tracking
— Concurrent and retrospective query methodologies and their appropriate use	— Educate clinical staff on compliant query methodology and documentation specificity

## Domain 05 Regulatory Compliance, Coding Guidelines & Documentation Alignment

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— Official coding guidelines including ICD-10-CM/PCS and CPT standards	— Apply official coding guidelines to clinical documentation review and improvement
— Payer documentation requirements, coverage determinations, and medical necessity criteria	— Evaluate documentation against payer requirements and coverage policies
— Clinical documentation and coded data alignment principles and processes	— Identify and resolve misalignment between clinical documentation and coded data
— Audit readiness frameworks and compliance monitoring strategies	— Prepare organizations for coding audits and regulatory compliance reviews
— Regulatory compliance requirements governing coding and documentation practices	— Monitor coding and documentation compliance against regulatory standards
— Coding query processes and documentation correction methodologies	— Develop and implement documentation correction processes to support coding accuracy

## Domain 06 Quality Reporting, Patient Safety Indicators & Clinical Documentation

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— Hospital-acquired conditions (HACs) classification and documentation requirements	— Identify documentation gaps affecting HAC and PSI reporting accuracy
— Patient safety indicators (PSIs) and their documentation dependencies	— Evaluate clinical documentation impact on severity of illness and risk of mortality metrics
— Severity of illness and risk of mortality documentation principles	— Apply CDI strategies to improve quality reporting outcomes
— Quality reporting programs and their documentation and coding requirements	— Assess documentation alignment with value-based reimbursement program requirements
— Impact of documentation on public reporting and reimbursement outcomes	— Educate clinical teams on documentation requirements for quality reporting programs
— CDI strategies for improving quality metric accuracy and representation	— Monitor quality reporting outcomes and identify documentation improvement opportunities

## Domain 07 Denial Prevention, Clinical Validation & AI-Supported Revenue Integrity

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— Clinical validation denial types, causes, and prevention strategies	— Apply CDI processes to identify and prevent clinical validation denials pre-submission
— Appeal documentation development and payer-specific requirements	— Develop defensible appeal documentation for denied clinical validation claims
— AI-supported tools for documentation gap identification and denial risk prediction	— Use AI-supported tools to identify documentation gaps and assess denial risk
— Revenue integrity principles and their relationship to CDI program effectiveness	— Support revenue integrity through complete and accurate clinical documentation
— Payer clinical validation criteria and documentation sufficiency standards	— Monitor denial patterns and develop targeted CDI responses to reduce denial rates
— Proactive CDI strategies for denial mitigation and revenue protection	— Educate clinical teams on documentation practices that reduce denial risk

## Domain 08 CDI Data Analytics, AI-Assisted Documentation Review & Performance Intelligence

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— CDI performance metrics, analytics frameworks, and KPI development	— Apply data analytics to measure and report CDI program effectiveness
— AI-assisted documentation review technologies and their clinical application	— Use AI-assisted documentation review tools to identify improvement opportunities
— Query response rate analysis and performance interpretation	— Develop and interpret CDI performance dashboards and intelligence reports

— Documentation trend analysis and pattern recognition methodologies	— Analyze documentation trends to guide targeted CDI education and intervention
— CDI performance dashboard design and intelligence reporting	— Track and interpret query response rates and documentation improvement outcomes
— Predictive analytics for documentation gap identification and improvement targeting	— Present CDI analytics findings to leadership and governance stakeholders

## Domain 09 Risk Adjustment Documentation & Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC)

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— Hierarchical Condition Categories (HCC) coding framework and documentation requirements	— Apply HCC coding principles to clinical documentation review and gap identification
— Risk Adjustment Factor (RAF) score calculation and accuracy principles	— Evaluate documentation for complete chronic condition capture and RAF score accuracy
— Chronic condition capture requirements for risk adjustment completeness	— Identify and resolve documentation deficiencies affecting risk adjustment outcomes
— Risk adjustment reimbursement models and their documentation dependencies	— Recommend CDI strategies supporting accurate and complete risk adjustment documentation
— Population health documentation standards and their organizational impact	— Educate clinical providers on chronic condition documentation requirements for HCC accuracy
— HCC documentation improvement strategies and chronic condition review methodologies	— Monitor risk adjustment documentation outcomes and identify improvement opportunities

## Domain 10 CDI Leadership, Ethics & Professional Practice

Knowledge Statements	Task Statements
— CDI professional ethics standards and integrity principles	— Apply ethical principles to CDI professional practice and decision-making
— Leadership responsibilities and accountability in CDI program management	— Model professional accountability and integrity in CDI leadership roles
— Managing competing organizational and clinical priorities in CDI leadership	— Manage competing priorities while maintaining CDI program integrity and compliance
— Culture of integrity, compliance, and continuous improvement in CDI programs	— Foster a culture of documentation excellence, compliance, and continuous improvement
— Professional development standards and pathways in CDI practice	— Support professional development and standards education within CDI teams
— CDI program governance structures and organizational accountability frameworks	— Represent CDI program interests in organizational governance and leadership forums

## 03 Using This Exam Content Outline

Candidates preparing for the CCDIP certification examination should review the knowledge and task statements for each domain carefully. The ECO defines both what candidates must know and what they must be able to do — reflecting the applied, practice-oriented nature of the CCDIP examination.

Examination questions are developed directly from the knowledge and task statements in this ECO. Thorough understanding of content across all ten domains, combined with ability to apply that knowledge to realistic CDI scenarios, is the strongest preparation for the examination.

*The CCDIP ECO is the definitive reference for examination content. Candidates should treat the knowledge and task statements in each domain as the authoritative scope of what may be assessed in the certification examination.*