

HEALTHCARE STUDY GUIDE

MEDICAL CODER & BILLER

YEAR 1 CORE KNOWLEDGE

**250 EXAM PREP QUESTIONS,
WITH EXPLAINED ANSWERS**



LEARNERS | PRACTITIONERS | EDUCATORS

HealthcareStudyGuide.com

UNITY CREST SOLUTIONS INC.

Who Is Healthcare Study Guide For

Healthcare Study Guide is a professional-grade study and review resource for healthcare workers across the United States and Canada. Whether you're preparing for a certification exam, re-entering the workforce, or transitioning into a new role or specialty, this guide is designed to help you test your knowledge, reinforce critical concepts, and build career confidence.

This guide can be used for exam preparation, knowledge review, and independent study. It is suitable for a wide range of professionals who need to refresh, refine, or benchmark their understanding of core healthcare topics.

It is not a substitute for accredited coursework or formal clinical training, and does not replace regulatory, licensing, or board-approved materials. Rather, it is meant to complement your preparation, offering structured support and insight as you work toward your goals.

Who We Serve

1. Internationally Trained Healthcare Professionals

You've completed your education and worked in your home country. Now you're preparing to meet Canadian or U.S. standards. This guide helps you align your clinical knowledge with North American expectations.

2. Licensed Nurses, Paramedics, and Allied Health Workers Advancing Their Roles

Whether you're moving from general practice to a specialty field, taking on leadership, or preparing for an internal assessment, this guide helps you reinforce foundational knowledge and expand into more advanced thinking.

3. Returning Healthcare Professionals

If you're re-entering the workforce after time away, this guide is a practical starting point to evaluate what you remember, what's changed, and where to focus next.

4. New Graduates Preparing for Exams

You're nearing the end of your formal education, and now it's time to prepare for licensing. Our practice tests and explanations help you study smarter and approach your exams with confidence.

5. Healthcare Instructors, Coaches, and Bridge Programs

You need reliable, structured materials to support learners from diverse backgrounds. This guide is suitable for supplemental instruction, assessment tools, and career readiness modules.

Start Strong. Stay Sharp. Move Forward With Confidence.

Whether you're preparing for exams, transitioning into a new role, or reviewing after time away, *Healthcare Study Guide* gives you the structure and clarity to take your next step. Designed for independent learners, this guide helps you build confidence, reinforce knowledge, and stay aligned with your professional goals.

Explore additional resources, practice tools, and review materials tailored to today's healthcare environment at: HealthcareStudyGuide.com

Certainly! Here's a version that's approximately 20% longer, while maintaining clarity and structure—ideal for filling out the page more fully without being repetitive:



What Healthcare Study Guide Offers

Whether you're preparing for a certification exam, returning to the field after time away, or stepping into a new clinical role, *Healthcare Study Guide* provides the structure and insight you need to move forward with purpose. Designed to reflect North American clinical standards, this guide gives you a flexible, self-paced tool for reinforcing your knowledge and building confidence.

1. **Structured Study Guides**

Each guide is developed and reviewed by experienced healthcare professionals to align with core competencies across roles and jurisdictions. Content is thoughtfully organized to help learners from diverse educational backgrounds, including internationally trained professionals, navigate complex topics with clarity and focus.

2. **Exam-Style Practice Tests**

Timed, multiple-choice practice exams simulate real testing environments. These allow you to track progress, improve decision-making under pressure, and become more familiar with exam structure, pacing, and question format.

3. **Role-Specific Question Banks**

Our question banks are organized around practical responsibilities and clinical terminology you'll encounter on the job. Whether you're in direct patient care, support services, or administration, the material is crafted to reflect real-world priorities and expectations.

4. **Clinical Answer Rationales**

Each question is followed by a detailed rationale explaining not just which answer is correct, but why it's correct. This supports deeper learning, strengthens clinical reasoning, and encourages critical thinking—especially useful for internationally trained professionals adapting to North American protocols.

5. **Supplemental Review Tools**

You'll also find extra learning material on topics such as infection prevention, patient safety, ethical care, cultural competence, and interprofessional communication. These tools are designed to round out your knowledge and help you better understand the expectations of modern healthcare systems.

Using This Guide Effectively

This study guide is meant to supplement—not replace—formal education, accredited coursework, or required clinical training. It should be used to enhance your preparation by identifying your strengths, exposing gaps in knowledge, and encouraging repeat engagement with real-world scenarios and test logic.

For best results, we recommend pairing this guide with official reference materials and regulatory frameworks provided by your licensing authority, training institution, or employer. This combined approach ensures that you're not only reviewing the right material but developing a mindset for safe, confident, and effective practice.



Ready to Take the First Step Toward Career Progression

Whether you're pivoting to a new specialty, re-entering the field, or preparing for certification in the U.S. or Canada, this guide provides a structured foundation for the next step in your healthcare career.

Visit **HealthcareStudyGuide.com** to access additional resources, take full-length practice tests, and explore tools tailored to your role and goals.

Why Healthcare Study Guide

We believe healthcare education should be practical, affordable, and accessible—whether you're starting a new chapter, transitioning across borders, or stepping into a more advanced role. This guide was built to help you move forward with clarity, confidence, and direction.

This isn't a shortcut. It's a structured, expert-reviewed study and review tool designed to help you assess your knowledge, strengthen clinical reasoning, and focus on what matters most. From practice tests to detailed answer breakdowns, every feature is designed to support real-world preparation—not just academic review.

Use this guide alongside formal coursework, official licensing materials, and clinical experience for the best results.

Success Stories from Professionals Like You

"I was preparing to return to practice in North America after more than a decade abroad. This guide gave me a clear path to follow. It helped me refocus and regain my confidence before applying for hospital roles."

— Priya D., Registered Nurse

"I used this guide while prepping for a trauma nurse position. The questions pushed me to think beyond memorization and into clinical decision-making. It helped me walk into the interview prepared and focused."

— Daniel H., Licensed Practical Nurse

"I'm an instructor for an international bridging program. We needed something affordable that didn't compromise on depth. The explanations are sharp, the structure is clean, and my students rely on it week after week."

— Tanya W., Clinical Educator

Ready to Start Your Own Success Story

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What This Guide Will Teach You

This guide isn't just about reviewing facts. It's about sharpening clinical reasoning, preparing for role-specific expectations, and building confidence as you advance, transition, or requalify in healthcare.

Success in this field demands more than academic knowledge. It requires focus, effort, and a mindset ready for high-pressure decision-making. Here's what to expect:

- 1. Progress takes work**

This guide is a tool—how much you gain depends on how actively you use it. Engaging with questions, reviewing explanations, and retesting weak areas is key to progress.

- 2. The focus is on clinical thinking**

Every question is designed to develop how you think, not just what you know. The answer explanations aren't filler—they're your opportunity to strengthen diagnostic logic, decision-making, and situational awareness.

- 3. It's a supplement, not a stand-alone solution**

This guide is most effective when paired with accredited coursework, current regulatory materials, and hands-on experience. It helps orient your study and fill knowledge gaps—but it's not a replacement for formal training or licensure requirements.

Used consistently, this guide can help you study with more purpose, reduce stress, and show up prepared—whether for an exam, a return-to-practice interview, or a new position in healthcare.

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Healthcare Study Guide is a structured study resource built to support exam preparation, professional transitions, and independent review. It includes questions, explanations, and scenario-based material designed by professionals to reflect clinical realities in North American healthcare.

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With flexible, self-paced learning built for busy professionals, *Healthcare Study Guide* supports learners at every stage. Visit HealthcareStudyGuide.com for access to practice tests, review tools, and resources tailored to your goals.



SNOWSITES



Year 1: Foundations of Medical Coder & Biller

Main Topics:

Subject 3. ICD-10 and CPT Code Basics

1. What does ICD-10 stand for?

- a) International Coding Directive
- b) International Code Documentation
- c) International Classification of Diseases
- d) International Code of Diagnostics

Correct Answer: c) International Classification of Diseases

Explanation: ICD-10 stands for International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. It is a coding system used globally to classify and code all diagnoses, symptoms, and procedures recorded in conjunction with healthcare. Medical coders and billers use these codes to standardize the reporting and billing of healthcare services, ensuring consistency and accuracy in medical records.

2. What is the purpose of ICD-10 codes?

- a) To track medical supplies
- b) To manage hospital staff
- c) To schedule patient appointments
- d) To classify diseases and conditions

Correct Answer: d) To classify diseases and conditions

Explanation: The primary purpose of ICD-10 codes is to classify and code diseases, disorders, injuries, and other health-related issues. This classification helps healthcare providers, insurers, and researchers understand health trends and statistics. Medical coders and billers rely on these codes to accurately document diagnoses for billing and reimbursement processes.

3. How many characters are in ICD-10 codes?

- a) Three to seven characters
- b) Five to eight characters
- c) Four to six characters
- d) Three to five characters

Correct Answer: a) Three to seven characters

Explanation: ICD-10 codes are alphanumeric and typically range from three to seven characters in length. The first character is always a letter, followed by numbers. This structure allows for a high level of specificity in coding various diagnoses and conditions, which is essential for accurate medical billing and reporting.



4. What does the first character of an ICD-10 code represent?

- a) The specific diagnosis
- b) The patient's age
- c) The treatment method
- d) The chapter of the disease

Correct Answer: d) The chapter of the disease

Explanation: The first character of an ICD-10 code indicates the chapter in which the diagnosis falls, representing a specific category of diseases or conditions. Each chapter groups related diseases together, allowing medical coders and billers to easily navigate the coding system and find the correct code for a given diagnosis.

5. What is the significance of "laterality" in ICD-10 codes?

- a) It indicates the severity of a condition
- b) It denotes the patient's age
- c) It describes treatment options
- d) It specifies the side of the body

Correct Answer: d) It specifies the side of the body

Explanation: Laterality in ICD-10 codes indicates whether a condition affects the left side, right side, or both sides of the body. This specificity is crucial for accurate documentation and billing, as it helps healthcare providers understand the exact nature of a patient's condition and ensures appropriate treatment and reimbursement.

6. Which of the following is a valid ICD-10 code format?

- a) A12.3B
- b) A12.345
- c) A1B2.34
- d) A12.34.5

Correct Answer: b) A12.345

Explanation: A valid ICD-10 code format consists of an alphabetic character followed by a combination of numeric characters. The standard structure allows for up to seven characters, with the first character being a letter. This format is essential for categorizing diagnoses accurately, which is vital for proper medical billing and coding practices.



7. What do the last three characters in an ICD-10 code represent?

- a) The diagnosis details
- b) The treatment method
- c) The insurance coverage
- d) The patient's age

Correct Answer: a) The diagnosis details

Explanation: The last three characters in an ICD-10 code provide additional detail about the diagnosis, including specifics about the condition's severity, location, or type. This level of detail is important for medical coders and billers, as it ensures accurate representation of the patient's health status for billing and healthcare statistics.

8. What does "CM" in ICD-10-CM stand for?

- a) Clinical Modification
- b) Clinical Management
- c) Clinical Measurement
- d) Clinical Modifier

Correct Answer: a) Clinical Modification

Explanation: "CM" in ICD-10-CM stands for Clinical Modification. This version of the ICD-10 coding system is specifically designed for use in the United States and includes codes for diagnoses in outpatient and inpatient settings. Medical coders and billers utilize ICD-10-CM codes to accurately document patient diagnoses and ensure proper reimbursement.

9. Which coding manual includes ICD-10 codes?

- a) CPT Manual
- b) ICD-10-CM Manual
- c) HCPCS Manual
- d) DRG Manual

Correct Answer: b) ICD-10-CM Manual

Explanation: The ICD-10-CM Manual includes all the codes for the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification. This manual is essential for medical coders and billers as it provides the necessary codes for accurately documenting diagnoses in clinical settings, ensuring proper billing and compliance with healthcare regulations.



10. What does the "A" in the ICD-10 code A00 represent?

- a) A treatment category
- b) An age group
- c) A specific diagnosis
- d) A chapter related to infections

Correct Answer: d) A chapter related to infections

Explanation: The "A" in the ICD-10 code A00 represents a chapter related to infectious diseases. Specifically, codes starting with "A" pertain to various infections and parasitic diseases. Understanding this categorization helps medical coders and billers locate appropriate codes efficiently when documenting diagnoses for billing and reporting purposes.

11. What is the highest level of specificity in ICD-10 coding?

- a) Five characters
- b) Four characters
- c) Three characters
- d) Seven characters

Correct Answer: d) Seven characters

Explanation: The highest level of specificity in ICD-10 coding is achieved with seven characters. These codes provide detailed information regarding the diagnosis, including specifics about the condition's location, severity, and other clinical details. Medical coders and billers strive for this level of specificity to ensure accuracy in billing and appropriate patient care documentation.

12. What is the primary use of CPT codes?

- a) To manage patient records
- b) To document services and procedures
- c) To track insurance claims
- d) To classify inpatient diseases

Correct Answer: b) To document services and procedures

Explanation: CPT codes, or Current Procedural Terminology codes, are primarily used to document medical services and procedures provided to patients. Medical coders and billers utilize these codes to ensure accurate billing and reimbursement for healthcare services performed during patient visits. Understanding CPT codes is essential for effective medical coding and billing practices.



13. How often are ICD codes updated?

- a) Every year
- b) Every decade
- c) Every two years
- d) Every five years

Correct Answer: a) Every year

Explanation: ICD codes are typically updated on a yearly basis to reflect changes in medical knowledge, practices, and emerging health conditions. These updates ensure that the coding system remains relevant and accurate for medical coders and billers, who rely on the most current codes for documenting diagnoses and billing for services rendered.

14. What is the first step in coding a diagnosis?

- a) Submit the claim
- b) Assign the ICD code
- c) Find the CPT code
- d) Review patient records

Correct Answer: d) Review patient records

Explanation: The first step in coding a diagnosis is to review the patient records thoroughly. Medical coders and billers must understand the patient's condition and relevant medical history to accurately assign the appropriate ICD codes. This foundational step ensures accurate coding and billing, which is crucial for proper reimbursement and patient care documentation.

15. What is the function of a "placeholder" in ICD-10 codes?

- a) To specify insurance details
- b) To indicate a diagnosis
- c) To maintain character count
- d) To denote a procedure

Correct Answer: c) To maintain character count

Explanation: A "placeholder" in ICD-10 codes, represented by the letter "X," is used to maintain the correct character count in certain codes when additional characters are required. This feature allows for greater specificity in coding while ensuring that the structure of the code remains intact. Medical coders and billers must understand this to ensure compliance and accuracy.



16. What is the main difference between ICD-10 and CPT codes?

- a) ICD codes classify diseases; CPT codes document procedures
- b) CPT codes are used internationally; ICD codes are not
- c) CPT codes classify diseases; ICD codes document procedures
- d) ICD codes are longer than CPT codes

Correct Answer: a) ICD codes classify diseases; CPT codes document procedures

Explanation: The main difference between ICD-10 and CPT codes is their purpose; ICD codes are used to classify and code diseases and health conditions, while CPT codes are used to document medical procedures and services rendered to patients. This distinction is important for medical coders and billers as they navigate the coding process for accurate billing and reporting.

17. What does the "X" placeholder signify in an ICD-10 code?

- a) A secondary condition
- b) A missing character
- c) A specific diagnosis
- d) A procedure code

Correct Answer: b) A missing character

Explanation: The "X" placeholder in an ICD-10 code signifies a missing character needed to maintain the correct length of the code. This placeholder is used when a code requires more than three characters to provide complete information about a diagnosis. Medical coders and billers must understand this to ensure the integrity and accuracy of their coding practices.

18. What is the purpose of using modifiers in CPT codes?

- a) To indicate patient age
- b) To change the diagnosis
- c) To specify treatment type
- d) To provide additional information

Correct Answer: d) To provide additional information

Explanation: Modifiers in CPT codes are used to provide additional information about the services performed. They clarify circumstances such as whether a procedure was altered, the location of the service, or if multiple services were provided. Medical coders and billers must use modifiers appropriately to ensure accurate billing and to convey the specifics of the services rendered.



19. What does a "diagnosis code" represent?

- a) A patient's treatment plan
- b) A billing amount
- c) A healthcare provider's name
- d) A specific medical condition

Correct Answer: d) A specific medical condition

Explanation: A diagnosis code represents a specific medical condition or disease affecting a patient. These codes are essential for documenting the patient's health status and are used by medical coders and billers to ensure accurate billing and reimbursement for healthcare services. Proper coding of diagnoses is critical for effective healthcare management and compliance.

20. What is the first step in finding an ICD-10 code?

- a) Check the patient's insurance
- b) Use the alphabetic index
- c) Look up the CPT code
- d) Review the medical history

Correct Answer: b) Use the alphabetic index

Explanation: The first step in finding an ICD-10 code is to use the alphabetic index, which organizes conditions and diseases alphabetically. This tool helps medical coders and billers quickly locate the appropriate code for the patient's diagnosis. Following this step ensures efficiency and accuracy in the coding process for medical billing.

21. What type of codes does the HCPCS Level II include?

- a) Durable medical equipment codes
- b) Procedure codes
- c) Hospital coding codes
- d) Diagnosis codes

Correct Answer: a) Durable medical equipment codes

Explanation: The HCPCS Level II coding system includes codes for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and other services not covered by CPT codes. Medical coders and billers utilize HCPCS Level II codes to represent a wide range of healthcare services and supplies, ensuring comprehensive billing and reimbursement for various patient needs.



22. What is the primary coding system used for inpatient services?

- a) ICD-10-CM
- b) HCPCS Level II
- c) CPT
- d) ICD-10-PCS

Correct Answer: d) ICD-10-PCS

Explanation: The primary coding system used for inpatient services is ICD-10-PCS, or International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System. This system is specifically designed to code procedures and services performed during inpatient hospital stays. Medical coders and billers rely on ICD-10-PCS for accurate documentation and billing of inpatient procedures.

23. What are "excludes" notes in ICD-10 codes?

- a) Highlight conditions not covered
- b) Specify additional codes required
- c) Indicate related conditions
- d) Suggest alternative treatments

Correct Answer: a) Highlight conditions not covered

Explanation: "Excludes" notes in ICD-10 codes indicate conditions that are not included in that particular code. These notes help medical coders and billers avoid coding errors by clearly stating which diagnoses cannot be reported together. Understanding excludes notes is essential for ensuring accurate coding and compliance with billing regulations in healthcare settings.

24. What does "unspecified" mean in an ICD-10 code?

- a) The diagnosis is not clearly defined
- b) A specific diagnosis is required
- c) The patient is not insured
- d) No treatment is needed

Correct Answer: a) The diagnosis is not clearly defined

Explanation: "Unspecified" in an ICD-10 code indicates that the diagnosis is not clearly defined or that the coder does not have sufficient information to specify the condition further. While using unspecified codes may be necessary, medical coders and billers should strive to obtain more specific information to ensure accurate coding and billing for healthcare services provided.



25. What is the role of a medical coder?

- a) To manage healthcare facilities
- b) To treat patients
- c) To schedule appointments
- d) To translate diagnoses into codes

Correct Answer: d) To translate diagnoses into codes

Explanation: The role of a medical coder is to translate diagnoses, procedures, and services into standardized codes, such as ICD-10 and CPT codes. This process is essential for accurate billing and reimbursement in healthcare. Medical coders ensure that medical records reflect the services provided to patients, facilitating communication between healthcare providers and insurers for proper funding and patient care.



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About the Creators

Bobby Bedi

Bobby Bedi is a digital strategist and EdTech systems architect with over 30 years of experience building scalable learning platforms. With roots in architecture and digital innovation, he specializes in designing user-focused education tools that blend clean design with powerful infrastructure.

Bobby has led digital transformation initiatives across startups, public companies, and global education ventures. His work centers on making learning more intuitive, accessible, and effective—regardless of a user's background or starting point.

At Healthcare Study Guide, Bobby oversees platform strategy, systems design, and digital experience—ensuring that each product delivers clarity, performance, and long-term value for learners and institutions alike.

Kris McFarlane

Kris McFarlane is a content strategist, learning designer, and EdTech entrepreneur with two decades of experience building practical, outcome-driven education programs. His background spans business development, curriculum design, and instructional systems—particularly in industries where accessible education is critical to career growth.

Kris has led the development of national study systems used across North America, combining technical accuracy with an understanding of how real people learn. His approach centers on clear, actionable content that meets professionals where they are and helps them move forward—fast.

At Healthcare Study Guide, Kris leads product development and content strategy, ensuring that every module reflects clinical standards while remaining approachable, efficient, and easy to use.

Work with the Creators

Bobby and Kris bring over 40 years of combined experience in EdTech, curriculum design, and scalable learning systems. Together, they build platforms that make professional education more accessible, more effective, and more aligned with the demands of today's workforce.

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Unite, Educate, and Innovate

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Unlock Your Potential with the Healthcare Study Guide

Whether you're preparing for a healthcare certification exam, stepping into a new clinical role, or transitioning from international training into the North American healthcare system, the Healthcare Study Guide is designed to support your next step.

This guide goes beyond memorization. It offers a structured, focused approach to help you review core knowledge, strengthen clinical reasoning, and prepare with confidence. Created for professionals at all stages, it delivers practical insight—without the high cost or complexity of traditional review programs.

What We Offer

- **Realistic Practice Tests**
Timed assessments simulate the pace and pressure of real exams, helping you evaluate readiness, sharpen focus, and build test-day confidence.
- **Targeted Question and Answer Sets**
Engage with questions written by healthcare professionals, aligned with clinical logic and licensing standards in both the U.S. and Canada.
- **In-Depth Explanations**
Every answer includes a clear, practical rationale—so you understand not just what's correct, but why. It's preparation Designed for clinical application.

Whether you're preparing for licensing, requalification, or a shift in specialty, this guide gives you the tools to move forward—on your own schedule.

Real Stories from Real Professionals

- "This gave me the structure I needed. After years away from practice, it helped me rebuild confidence and pass my certification."
— Alina S., Registered Nurse
- "I was preparing to move into emergency care. This guide helped me refocus and sharpen the clinical thinking I needed."
— Marcus K., Paramedic
- "As a program lead in an international bridge course, I've reviewed dozens of study tools. This is one of the few I continue to recommend."
— Dr. Elise N., Healthcare Educator

Take the Next Step in Your Career

Healthcare professionals across North America use this guide to sharpen their knowledge, rebuild confidence, and move into new roles with clarity and purpose. Now it's your turn.

Visit HealthcareStudyGuide.com to access the tools and support designed to help you prepare smarter, faster, and with more confidence.

Your next step starts here.



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