



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE CODING SPECIALISTS

Specializing in Medical Practice Coding

The Advantages of Certification

For the Professional Healthcare Coder: Becoming a Certified Gastroenterology Coding Specialist (CGCS) will acknowledge that you possess specific skills which set you apart as a professional, dedicated to both your employer and your profession. In pledging to uphold the PAHCS Code of Ethics, you will be required to continually improve your knowledge and skills, and maintain high standards of competency, honesty, and integrity. The recognition you receive from achieving this certification will attest to your abilities and dedication.

For the Physician(s) / Practice Owner(s): The Certified GI Coder is a professional who adheres to the Code of Ethics of the AGA Institute and PAHCS. The employment of a Certified GI Coder will assure you that this individual has achieved a high level of competency in coding specifically for your Gastroenterology office practice.

The Process

Members of PAHCS (\$125) as well as coders within AGA member practices who are actively involved in medical office coding may apply to take the specialty examination (\$285).

A candidate must qualify in three areas:

1. **Experience** - Active employment as a healthcare coder, performing duties that qualify as practical coding for a minimum of two years.
2. **Education** - Formal education in courses pertinent to healthcare coding. By a special arrangement with the AGA Institute, the education requirement can be attained by attending the two day course presented by McVey Associates
3. **References** - Recognition as a Healthcare Coder by both peers and employer(s).

After the candidate has successfully completed the written exam, he/she will be certified as a Certified Gastroenterology Coding Specialist by the AGA Institute and the Professional Association of Healthcare Coding Specialists for two years.

The Written Examination

Application forms for membership and to take the examination can be obtained by e-mailing your request to members@pahcs.org or by calling the National Office at 888-708-4707. The written examination is divided into two sections. The first section is comprised of 50 questions on Gastroenterology coding. The second section is a series of 150 questions about relevant coding knowledge pertinent to all specialties. The entire examination is open book. Standard coding manuals are the main reference texts. Additional information is available upon request. The examination will be offered the day after the McVey in-depth course, usually in the same location.

Lee Browder
PAHCS National Director