

Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) Examination Content

Number of Questions on Exam: 150

Exam Time: 3 ½ hours

DOMAIN I. Health Data Management (30%)

Subdomain A. Health Data Structure, Content, and Standards

Knowledge of:

1. Collect and maintain data sets and databases
2. Conduct qualitative analysis to ensure that documentation in the health record supports the diagnosis and reflects the progress, clinical findings and discharge status
3. Apply clinical vocabularies and terminologies used in the organization's health information systems
4. Comply with national patient safety goals as related to abbreviation usage
5. Verify timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and appropriateness of data and data sources (such as patient care; management; billing reports and/or databases)

Subdomain B. Healthcare Information Requirement and Standards

Knowledge of:

1. Monitor the accuracy and completeness of the health record as defined by organizational policy, external regulations and standards
2. Perform analysis of health records to evaluate compliance with regulations and standards:
 - a. Quantitative analysis
 - b. Qualitative analysis
3. Apply policies and procedures to assure organizational compliance with regulations and standards

Subdomain C. Clinical Classification Systems

Knowledge of:

1. Use and monitor applications and work processes to support clinical classification and coding
2. Apply diagnosis/procedure codes using ICD-9-CM
3. Apply procedure codes using CPT/HCPCS
4. Ensure accuracy of diagnostic/procedural groupings (such as APC; DRG; IPF)
5. Adhere to current regulations and established guidelines in code assignment
6. Validate coding accuracy using clinical information found in the health record
7. Identify discrepancies between coded data and supporting documentation

Subdomain D. Reimbursement Methodologies

Knowledge of:

1. Apply policies and procedures for the use of clinical data required in reimbursement and prospective payment systems (PPS) in healthcare delivery (such as APC; DRG; RVU; RBRVS)
2. Support accurate revenue cycle through:
 - a. Coding
3. Use established guidelines to comply with reimbursement and reporting requirements (such as National Correct Coding Initiative [NCCI]; Local Medical Review Policies [LMRP])

DOMAIN II. Health Statistics, Biomedical Research, and Quality Management (13%)

Subdomain A. Healthcare Statistics and Research

Knowledge of:

1. Abstract and maintain data for clinical indices/databases/registries
2. Collect, organize, and present data for:
 - a. Administrative purposes
 - b. Financial purposes
 - c. Performance improvement programs
 - d. Quality management

Subdomain B. Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement

Knowledge of:

1. Participate in facility-wide quality assessment program
2. Present data in verbal and written forms

DOMAIN III. Health Services Organization and Delivery (17%)

Subdomain A. Healthcare Delivery Systems

Knowledge of:

1. Comply with accreditation, licensure, and certification standards from government (national, state, and local levels) and private organizations (such as Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations)

2. Apply policies and procedures to comply with the changing regulations among various payment systems for healthcare services such as Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), managed care
3. Differentiate the roles of various providers and disciplines throughout the continuum of healthcare and respond to their information needs
4. Understand the role of various providers and disciplines throughout the continuum of healthcare services

Subdomain B. Healthcare Compliance, Confidentiality, Ethical, Legal, and Privacy Issues

Knowledge of:

1. Implement the legal and regulatory requirements related to health information
2. Apply regulatory policies and procedures for access and disclosure of protected health information (PHI)
3. Maintain user access logs/systems to track access to and disclosure of patient-identifiable data
4. Identify and report privacy issues/problems
5. Demonstrate and promote legal and ethical standards of practice
6. Report compliance issues according to organizational policy
7. Collaborate with staff to prepare the organization for accreditation, licensing, and/or certification surveys
8. Implement health record documentation guidelines and provide education to staff

DOMAIN IV. Information Technology and Systems (25%)

Subdomain A. Information and Communication Technologies

Knowledge of:

1. Use technology, including hardware and software, to ensure data collection, storage, analysis, retrieval and reporting of information
2. Use common software applications (such as spreadsheets; databases; presentation; email) in the execution of work processes
3. Use specialized software in the completion of HIM processes (such as chart management; coding; release of information)
4. Apply policies and procedures for the use of networks, including intranet and internet applications to facilitate the electronic health record (EHR), personal health record (PHR), public health, and other administrative applications
5. Protect data integrity using software or hardware technology (Note: Integrity means that data should be complete, accurate, consistent and up-to-date)

Subdomain B. Data, Storage, and Retrieval

Knowledge of:

1. Use appropriate electronic or imaging technology for data/record storage
2. Maintain integrity of patient numbering and filing systems
3. Design forms, computer input screens, and other health record documentation tools
4. Maintain integrity of master patient/client index/Enterprise Master Patient Index (EMPI)
5. Query and generate reports using appropriate software
6. Design and generate reports using appropriate software
7. Coordinate, use and maintain archival and retrieval systems for patient information (such as in multiple formats)

Subdomain C. Data Security

Knowledge of:

1. Apply confidentiality and security measures to protected health information (PHI)
2. Apply departmental and organizational data and information system security policies
3. Use and summarize data compiled from audit trail

Subdomain D. Health Information Systems

Knowledge of:

1. Collect and report data on incomplete records and timeliness of record completion
2. Maintain filing and retrieval systems for health records

DOMAIN V. Organizational Resources (15%)

Subdomain A. Human Resources

Knowledge of:

1. Apply the fundamentals of team leadership
2. Develop and/or contribute to:
 - a. Strategic plans, goals and objectives for area of responsibility/responsibilities
 - b. Job descriptions
3. Develop and/or conduct Performance Appraisals
4. Participate in intradepartmental and interdepartmental teams/committees
5. Develop and implement staff orientation and training programs
6. Provide consultation, education, and training to users of health information:
 - a. Internal users (such as healthcare providers; administrators)
7. Assess, monitor, and report:
 - a. Quality standards
 - b. Productivity standards
8. Perform staffing analysis to determine adequate coverage

9. Prioritize job functions and activities
10. Use quality improvement tools and techniques to assess, report and improve processes
11. Promote positive customer relations
12. Apply the principles of ergonomics in work process design
13. Comply with local, state and federal regulations regarding labor relations

Subdomain B. Financial and Physical Resources

Knowledge of:

1. Determine and monitor resources to meet workload needs including staff, equipment and supplies
2. Make recommendations for items to include in budgets
3. Monitor coding and revenue cycle processes
4. Recommend cost-saving and efficient means of achieving work processes and goals