



The Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM; formerly known as the Committee on Certification) continues its efforts towards complying with third-party accreditation standards for all AHIMA certification offerings.

Accordingly, one IMPORTANT change to score reports is being made. Individual exam results will be reported through the use of scaled scores instead of raw scores.

In addition CCHIIM will now report scores by use of scaled scores instead of raw scores. Background information regarding the rationale and use of scaled scores is provided below:

- Third-party accreditation standards require that certification bodies (such as CCHIIM) demonstrate equivalency across forms or versions of the same exam, in order to assure that no candidates are placed at a disadvantage, solely due to varying levels of difficulty across forms.
- The use of scaled scores for reporting certification exam results is a widely accepted best practice for both professional voluntary certifications and also for licensure (regulated) exams in numerous industries, including healthcare, for the purpose of equating exams across forms.
- CCHIIM revises and updates all certifications at least once per year. These revisions are based on statistical analyses of individual item performance and in consideration of redundant, revised, or new knowledge required of certificants entering the workforce. Because these exams are updated annually, a common question from candidates and educators concerns the perceived level of difficulty between current and prior exam forms.
- A scaled score is a mathematical conversion of a raw score (number of questions answered correctly). The scale score is determined by converting the number of questions answered correctly to a scale score ranging from 100 to 400. Candidates need a minimum scaled score of 300 to pass the examination.
- Each candidate's score is converted to a scaled score in such a way that a particular score corresponds to the same level of achievement regardless of the form of the

examination actually taken. In other words, a score of 300 on the current form or version of the exam will have the same meaning as a score of 300 on any prior form or version of the exam.

- Aggregate pass rates of the candidate pool are not affected by the use of scaled scores for reporting exam performance.
- A candidate's individual pass / fail status is not affected by the use of scaled scores for reporting exam performance. Please see the illustration on the next page.

Illustration Comparing Raw Scores to Scaled Scores:

