



Certified Documentation Integrity Practitioner (CDIP) Content Outline Crosswalk 2011-2023

Executive Summary

In 2022, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) began a job task analysis for the Certified Documentation Integrity Practitioner (CDIP) professional certification. The purpose of the current job analysis study was to validate the current tasks that are in the content outline for the CDIP program as well as identify additional tasks that may be required of CDIPs in their current role. The result of the CDIP job task analysis study resulted in an updated Content Outline (CO) to ensure the most current state of practice is being tested in the examination.

The steps for conducting a job analysis study include the following methodology:

1. Subject Matter Expert (SME) interview questionnaire
2. Exam Development Committee (EDC) reviews the interview to add new task statements for inclusion in the Job Analysis Survey
3. Updated Content Outline is incorporated into the Job Analysis Survey and administered to individuals practicing within the population to collect ratings on the tasks on importance and frequency of use
4. During a test specifications meeting, the EDC and SMEs review survey ratings and other data from the population to develop an updated Content Outline and Test Design
5. The outcomes from the test specifications meeting are presented to the Commission on Certification for Health Informatics and Information Management (CCHIIM) for review and approval.

Summary of 2023 CDIP Content Outline Updates

The results from the 2022 Certified Documentation Integrity Practitioner (CDIP) job analysis study indicated that 5 of the 6 domains remain relevant for a CDIP practicing professional and that many of the tasks expected by a CDIP remain appropriate. It was determined the “Research” topic in Domain 5 (Research and Education) no longer remained reflective of the CDIP practicing professional. Therefore, the research components were removed, and the remaining “Education” components were moved into Domain 2. Domain 5 was removed and Domain 2’s name changed to “Education and Leadership Development” (as shown in Table 1 below).

A total of 5 new tasks were added and 8 tasks were removed. Several of the tasks were combined and moved to different domains and much of the subtext was revised throughout for clarification or updated to reflect the tasks of current CDIP practicing professionals.

In addition, the time allotted to complete the exam, and eligibility requirements/recommendations were reviewed/discussed, and it was determined the exam specifications remain appropriate and should remain the same.

The number of items allocated to each domain were discussed and adjusted based off the expertise of the exam specifications panel of SMEs. **Table 1** below portrays the changes in number of items allocated to each domain of the Content Outline. **Table 2** (page 2-page 8) presents the 2011 Content Outline and maps the changes to the 2023 Content Outline.

Table 1. CDIP Content Outline (CO) Domain Item Allocation

	Content Outline (CO) Domain (2011)	2011 CO	Content Outline (CO) Domain (2023)	2023 CO
1	Clinical Coding Practice	23-28 items	Clinical Coding Practice	16-19 items
2	Leadership	18-23 items	Education and Leadership Development	22-28 items
3	Record Review & Document Clarification	25-30 items	Record Review & Document Clarification	29-35 items
4	CDI Metrics & Statistics	15-19 items	CDI Metrics & Statistics	8-12 items
5	Research & Education	12-16 items	Compliance	19-24 items
6	Compliance	4-8 items	N/A	N/A

Note: Candidates will begin being assessed on the 2023 CDIP Content Online on **June 01, 2023**.

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TABLE 2. 2011 CDIP Content Outline mapped to the 2023 CDIP Content Outline

Domain 1 Clinical Coding Practice 2011 Content Outline		Domain 1 Clinical Coding Practice 2023 Content Outline		Change
Task Number	Task Statement	Task Number	Task Statement	
1	Use reference resources for code assignment	1	No Change	n/a
2	Identify the principal and secondary diagnoses in order to accurately reflect the patient’s hospital course	2	No Change	n/a
3	Use coding software	Removed		
4	Assign and sequence ICD-10-CM/PCS codes	3	Assign and sequence diagnosis and procedure codes	Changed “ICD-10-CM/PCS” to “diagnosis and procedure”
5	Use coding conventions	4	Apply coding conventions and guidelines related to diagnosis and procedure codes	Changed “Use” to “Apply” Added “and guidelines related to diagnosis and procedure codes”
6	Display knowledge of Payer requirements for appropriate code assignment (e.g. CMS, APR-DRGs, APGs)	Removed	n/a	
7	Assign appropriate DRG codes	5	Understand the assignment of the working and final DRG	Reworded entire task statement
8	Communicate with the coding/HIM staff to resolve discrepancies between the working and final DRGs	6	Communicate with the coding/HIM staff to resolve discrepancies between the working and final DRGs and to ensure coding and reimbursement updates are incorporated into practice	Added “and to ensure coding and reimbursement updates are incorporated into practice”
9	Participate in educational sessions with staff to discuss infrequently encountered	Removed	n/a	
10	Assign CPT and/or HCPCS codes	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 1, Task 3 (2023)
11	Communicate with coding/HIM staff to resolve discrepancies in documentation for CPT assignment	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 1 task 6 (2023)

No Change	Revision/Edit	Topic Removed	New Topic
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Domain 2 Leadership		Domain 2 Education and Leadership Development		
2011 Content Outline		2023 Content Outline		Change
Task Number	Task Statement	Task Number	Task Statement	
1	Maintain affiliation with professional organizations devoted to the accuracy of diagnosis coding and reporting	Removed	n/a	
2	Promote CDI efforts throughout the organization	1	Promote CDI efforts throughout the organization and health system, including administration	Added “and health system, including administration”
3	Foster working relationship with CDI team members for reconciliation of queries	2	Create and nurture working relationships to support collaboration across multi-disciplinary teams	Replaced “Foster” with “Create and nurture” Replaced “with CDI team members for reconciliation of queries” to “to support collaboration across multi-disciplinary teams”
4	Establish a chain of command for resolving unanswered queries	7	Recognize a chain of command for resolving unanswered queries	Changed “Establish” to “Recognize”
5	Develop documentation improvement projects	3	No Change	n/a
6	Collaborate with physician champions to promote CDI initiatives	4	No Change	n/a
7	Establish consequences for non-compliance to queries or lack of responses to queries in collaboration with providers	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 3, task 2 (2023)
8	Develop CDI policies and procedures in accordance with AHIMA practice briefs	5	No Change	n/a
n/a	Determine facility requirements for documentation of query responses in the record to establish official policy and procedures related to CDI query activities	6	No Change	Moved from Domain 3, task 13 (2011)
n/a	SEE DOMAIN 5 (2011) for tasks: Task 2 Task 5 Task 6	8	Facilitate clinical documentation integrity by identifying educational topics and delivery methods for effective learning for an audience	Moved from Domain 5: task 2, 5, and 6 combined (2011) and reworded entire task statement
n/a	Articulate the implications of accurate coding with respect to research, public health reporting, case management, and reimbursement	9	Articulate the implications of accurate documentation and coding with respect to research, public health reporting, case management, and reimbursement	Moved from Domain 5, task 3 (2011) Added “documentation and”

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Domain 3 Record Review & Document Clarification 2011 Content Outline		Domain 3 Record Review & Document Clarification 2023 Content Outline		Change
Task Number	Task Statement	Task Number	Task Statement	
1	Identify opportunities for documentation improvement by ensuring that diagnoses and procedures are documented to the highest level of specificity	3	Identify gaps in documentation that may impact patient quality of care, code assignment, or reimbursement (e.g., command of disease process, clinical concepts, clinical validation opportunities, etc.)	Reworded entire task statement Combined Domain 3, task 1 and Domain 4, task 1 (2011)
2	Query providers in an ethical manner to avoid potential fraud and/or compliance issues	4	Apply industry current best practices pertaining to query development and query processes	Combined Domain 3: task 2, task 3, and task 5, into one statement (2011)
3	Formulate queries to providers to clarify conflicting diagnoses	Removed	n/a	Removed as combined in Domain 3, task 4 (2023)
4	Ensure provider query response is documented in the medical record	5	Identify strategies for obtaining query responses from providers and ensure provider query response is documented in the health record	Combined Domain 3: task 4, and task 6 into one statement (2011)
5	Formulate queries to providers to clarify the clinical significance of abnormal findings identified in the record	Removed	n/a	Removed as combined in Domain 3, task 4 (2023)
6	Track responses to queries and interact with providers to obtain query responses	Removed	n/a	Removed as combined in Domain 3, task 5 (2023)
7	Interact with providers to clarify Present on Admission (POA) indicators	6	Interact with providers to clarify documentation opportunities within the health record (e.g., patient quality indicators, Present on Admission (POA), acuteness/chronicity, complications, etc.)	Combined Domain 3: task 7, task 10, task 11, and task 12 (2011)
8	Identify post-discharge query opportunities that will affect (Severity of Illness) (SOI), Risk of Mortality (ROM) and ultimately, case weight	7	Identify post-discharge query opportunities	Removed “that will affect (Severity of Illness) (SOI), Risk of Mortality (ROM) and ultimately, case weight”
9	Collaborate with the case management and utilization review staff to affect change in documentation	Removed	n/a	
10	Interact with providers to clarify Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC)	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 3, task 6 (2023)
11	Interact with providers to clarify the documentation of core measures	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 3, task 6 (2023)
12	Interact with providers to clarify Patient Safety Indicators (PSI)	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 3, task 6 (2023)

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13	Determine facility requirements for documentation of query responses in the record to establish official policy and procedures related to CDI query activities	Removed	n/a	Removed as added to Domain 2 task 6 (2023)
14	Develop policies regarding various stages of the query process and time frames to avoid compliance risk	Removed	n/a	Removed as added to Domain 5, task 7 (2023)
n/a	n/a	1	Demonstrate comprehension of clinical documentation in health records	New Topic
n/a	Establish consequences for non-compliance to queries or lack of responses to queries in collaboration with providers	2	Identify and prioritize cases as part of the CDI review process	Moved from Domain 2, task 7 (2011) Reworded entire task statement

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Domain 4 CDI Metrics and Statistics 2011 Content Outline		Domain 4 CDI Metrics and Statistics 2023 Content Outline		Change
Task Number	Task Statement	Task Number	Task Statement	
1	Track denials and documentation practices to avoid future denials	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 3, task 3 (2023)
2	Trend and track physician query response	3	Track metrics and interpret trends related to the physician query process (e.g., CDI perspective vs provider perspective)	Combined Domain 4: task 2, task 5, task 6, and task 7 (2011)
3	Track working DRG (CDS) and coder final code	6	Identify common key performance metrics for CDI professionals	Reworded entire task statement Combined Domain 4: task 3 and task 11 (2011)
4	Perform quality audits of CDI content to ensure compliance with institutional policies & procedures or national guidelines	2	No Change	n/a
5	Trend and track physician query content	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 4, task 3 (2023)
6	Trend and track physician and query provider	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 4, task 3 (2023)
7	Trend and track physician query volume	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 4, task 3 (2023)
8	Measure the success of the CDI program through dashboard metrics	1	Identify common dashboard metrics and monitor CDI departmental performance	Reworded entire task statement
9	Track data for physician benchmarking and trending	4	Track and interpret data for physician benchmarking and trending	Added “and interpret”
10	Compare institution with external institutional benchmarks	5	No Change	n/a
11	Track data for CDI benchmarking and trending	Removed	n/a	Removed as included in Domain 4, task 6 (2023)
12	Track data for specialty benchmarking and trending	Removed	n/a	
13	Use CDI data to adjust departmental workflow	7	No Change	n/a

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Domain 5 Research & Education		Note: All Domain 5 removed or incorporated into another Domain		
2011 Content Outline		2023 Content Outline		Change
Task Number	Task Statement	Task Number	Task Statement	
1	Articulate the implications of accurate coding	Removed	n/a	Removed as duplicate in Domain 5, task 3 (2011)
2	Educate providers and other members of the health care team about the importance of the documentation improvement program and the need to assign diagnoses and procedures when indicated, to their highest level of specificity	Removed	n/a	Removed as combined into Domain 2, task 8 (2023)
3	Articulate the implications of accurate coding with respect to research, public health reporting, case management, and reimbursement	Removed	n/a	Removed as added to Domain 2, task 9 (2023)
4	Monitor changes in the external regulatory environment in order to maintain compliance with all applicable agencies	Removed	n/a	Removed as duplicate of Domain 6, task 4 (2011)
5	Educate the appropriate staff on the clinical documentation improvement program including accurate & ethical documentation practices	Removed	n/a	Removed as combined into Domain 2, task 8 (2023)
6	Develop educational materials to facilitate documentation that supports severity of illness, risk of mortality, and utilization of resources	Removed	n/a	Removed as combined into Domain 2, task 8 (2023)
7	Research and adapts successful best practices within the CDI specialty that could be utilized at one's own organization	Removed	n/a	

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Domain 6 Compliance		Domain 5 Compliance		
2011 Content Outline		2023 Content Outline		Change
Task Number	Task Statement	Task Number	Task Statement	
1	Apply AHIMA best practices related to CDI activities	1	Apply AHIMA and other industry standards in support of ethical CDI best practices	Added “industry standards” and moved “best practices” to follow CDI.
2	Apply regulations pertaining to CDI activities	2	Monitor changes in the regulatory environment applicable to CDI activities to maintain compliance with all applicable agencies	Combined Domain 6: task 2 and task 4 (2011)
3	Consult with compliance and HIM department regarding legal issues surrounding CDI efforts	Removed	n/a	
4	Monitor changes in the external regulatory environment in order to maintain compliance with all applicable agencies	Removed	n/a	Combined into Domain 5, task 2 (2023)
5	Educate the appropriate staff on the clinical documentation improvement program including accurate & ethical documentation practices	Removed	n/a	Removed as duplicate of Domain 5, task 5 (2011)
6	Develop educational materials to facilitate documentation that supports severity of illness, risk of mortality, and utilization of resources	Removed	n/a	Removed as duplicate of Domain 5, task 6 (2011)
7	Research and adapts successful best practices within the CDI specialty that could be utilized at one’s own organization	Removed	n/a	Removed as duplicate of Domain 5, task 7 (2011)
n/a	n/a	3	Identify risks associated with technology (e.g., electronic health records, natural language processing (NLP), computer-assisted coding, etc.)	New Topic
n/a	n/a	4	Identify situations when second level reviews are appropriate	New Topic
n/a	n/a	5	Understand and appropriately use clinical validation queries	New Topic
n/a	n/a	6	Identify and address non-compliant queries as part of a CDI workflow	New Topic
n/a	Develop policies regarding various stages of the query process and time frames to avoid compliance risk	7	Apply policies regarding various stages of the query process and time frames, including retention of queries, to avoid compliance risk	Moved from Domain 3, task 14 (2011) Changed “Develop” to “Apply” Added “including retention”

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