

# Coding Technician

## ***Nature of the Profession***

*Coding technicians are professionals skilled in classifying medical data from patient records, generally in the hospital setting. These coding practitioners review patients' records and assign numeric codes for each diagnosis and procedure. To perform this task, they must have expertise in specialized coding systems.*

## **APTITUDES**

- Good reading and numeric skills
- Knowledge of medical terminology, disease processes, and pharmacology
- Good eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity
- Ability to work quickly and accurately following specific procedures
- Ability to use word processor/computers and other current office technology
- Ability to proofread numbers and see important details in written materials

## **EDUCATION**

The program is designed to prepare the student to enter the health information field with a diploma, and associate degree, or a bachelor's degree. Students receiving a diploma will be prepared to work in entry-level positions as coding technicians in a variety of health care settings.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NEBRASKA**

- Central Community College – Hastings (P)
- Clarkson College – Omaha (A, B, C)
- Metro Community College – Omaha (A,C)
- Northeast Community College – Norfolk (P)
- Southeast Community College – Lincoln (P)
- Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff, Alliance, Sidney (P)

## **LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION**

The American Health Information Management Association offers two certification exams for coders, the Certified Coding Specialist and Physician Based Coding Specialist. Potential candidates must possess a high school diploma. It is also recommended that an individual have at least three years of on-the-job coding experience and coding education from seminars and colleges.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

### ***American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)***

Web Address: [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)

### ***American Academy of Professional Coders***

Web Address: [www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)

### ***Nebraska Health Information Management Association***

Web Address: [www.nhima.org](http://www.nhima.org)