

This is a SouthArk Master Syllabus. The course syllabus distributed by the instructor may include additional requirements, must be followed by the student in the given term, and is considered to supersede the Master Syllabus.

Course Number

HCIT 2173

Course Title

Reimbursement Methodology

Course Description

Prerequisite or co-requisite: HCIT 2183 and BIOL 2064/L.

The student will study the use of coded data and health information in reimbursement and payment systems utilized in health care settings and managed care. The course will review prospective payment systems, third party payers, billing and insurance procedures, explanation of benefits statements, peer review organizations, managed care, and compliance issues.

College Mission

South Arkansas Community College promotes excellence in learning, teaching, and service; provides lifelong educational opportunities; and serves as a cultural, intellectual, and economic resource for the community.

College Wide Student Learner Outcomes

Critical Thinking Responsibility Communication

ACTS Course **Program Course** Health Information Technology

ACTS Outcomes

Program Outcomes

1. Conduct qualitative analysis to assure that documentation in the health record supports the diagnosis and reflects the progress, clinical findings, and discharge status of the patient.
2. Request patient-specific information from other sources.
3. Perform quantitative analysis of health records to evaluate compliance with regulations and standards.
4. Ensure facility-wide adherence to health information services' regulatory requirements (e.g., HCFGA Compliance Plan, Correct Coding Initiative).
5. Assign valid diagnosis/procedure codes using ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS, and CPT.
6. Validate coding accuracy using clinical information found in the health record.
7. Validate reimbursement classification system assignments.
8. Collect the data necessary to assign patients to severity of illness categories.
9. Analyze the facility's patient case mix and payment rates to assure accurate/appropriate reimbursement.
10. Protect data integrity and validity using software or hardware tech.

Course Learner Outcomes

CLO #	Course Learner Outcomes (CLO)	Unit Outcomes/ Competencies	ACTS Outcomes	Program Outcomes	Critical Thinking	Communication	Responsibility	Assessment
CLO 1	Utilize knowledge of rules and regulations to prepare ethically correct claims for processing and monitoring reimbursement denials, appeals, and remittance advice reports	1, 5-18		3,7, 10	CT 1		R3	Module 2 Exam

CLO 2	Apply knowledge of different types of health insurance plans to appropriately collect and apply patient insurance information	1,2, 3,4, 16,		2,7 10	CT 1		R3	Final Exam
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Unit Outcomes/ Competencies/ Objectives

To achieve the learner outcomes, the student will:

1. Describe the job responsibilities of a health insurance specialist and/or certified professional biller.
2. Define the role of health insurance and managed care plans in the delivery of health care services.
3. Specify the different types of health insurance plans (HMO, PPO, POS, CMS, Tricare, Medicare, and Medicaid).
4. Summarize the various types of payment methods (FFS, capitation, indemnity plans, episodic plans).
5. Explain the importance of maintaining patient privacy during the healthcare communications required for the claims submission and billing process.
6. Analyze the purpose of ethical medical coding as it relates to the coding and billing process and compliance with fraud and abuse guidelines.
7. Demonstrate the importance of correctly linking diagnosis and procedure codes when billing to establish medical necessity.
8. Compare the differences of the CMS 1500 and the UB 04 form.
9. Examine the benefits and challenges of electronic claims processing.
10. Discuss the purpose of using a clearinghouse for electronic claim processing and processing payments.
11. Define the importance of tracking claim submission, payments and denials.
12. Give examples of reasons claim payment may be denied and state the process for appealing denied claims.
13. Discuss the purpose of remittance advice.
14. Outline the prospective payment system.
15. Apply knowledge of case mix analyses and indexes in relation to DRGs
16. Identify the different payment and reimbursement systems in relation to coding and billing (DRGs, APCs, RUGs, RBRVS, etc.).
17. Define the explanation of benefits (EOB) and analyze data contained with the EOB.
18. Define the charge master.

Assessment Description(s)

Module Exam
Final Exam

Materials and Technological Requirements

Blackboard
Principles of Healthcare Reimbursement, 4th edition Casto and Forrestal, AHIMA

Class Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. If a student is absent from a class session, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to complete or make up any work missed. No make-up work for missed classes will be allowed without the approval of the instructor. Students who enroll late must assume all responsibility for work missed. Classes not attended as a result of late enrollment may be counted toward excessive absences. Students not attending the entire class period may be counted absent for that period. An instructor may drop students with a grade of "WE" if students have been absent for an excessive number of days. Warning letters will be sent to the students advising them of the consequences of nonattendance and urging them to contact their instructors immediately. Excessive absences are defined as follows:

Regular Semester

- Courses which meet once a week 2 absences
- Courses that meet twice per week 3 absences
- Courses that meet four times per week 5 absences

Summer Session

- Courses that meet four times per week in a five week session 3 absences
- Courses which meet two evenings per week in a 10 week session 3 absences

Students enrolled in special programs or individualized instruction should contact their program director/instructor regarding specific attendance requirements for the program/course. Some of the selective-admission, health-science programs have specific criteria regarding attendance. Students are encouraged to refer to program policies in these matters.

Jury Duty/Military/Official School Function

Scheduled absences are those that occur due to college-related activities or as a result of summons to jury duty or military duty. Classes missed as a result of scheduled absences will not be counted as excessive absences if the instructor is notified and provided documentation prior to the absence(s). Make-up work for scheduled absences will be at the discretion of the instructor.

In all instances, documentation must be provided to the instructor within 24 hours of receipt. Documentation should come from an appropriate party on letterhead or other official stationery with a signature and contact information. Documentation should list the corresponding dates of the leave.

Medical leave

For medical-related absences, documentation must include written notice from the treating medical professional documenting time needed off related to medical reasons and time student may resume classes. The medical reason does not need to be listed on the documentation; the documentation must include only that there is a medical reason, the amount of time the student needs to be absent, and the time the student should be able to return to classes. Students who elect to work at home while on excused leave must meet with their instructors to make arrangements to do so. Working on coursework while on medical leave is not a requirement but can be requested by students. If students request that they be allowed to work at home while on an excused leave, the instructor will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the student is able to do so.

For students who have a medical condition necessitating time off or accommodation:

- 1) They may work at home on assignments if they choose to if on medical leave approved by a medical professional
- 2) Receive appropriate accommodations related to coursework (i.e., excused from labs with potentially harmful chemicals, have a larger desk, etc.)
- 3) Resume their studies where they left off once they return to classes
- 4) Be allowed to make up any missed work related to medical leave
- 5) Receive incompletes on their transcripts until coursework is completed, according to the incomplete grade contract.
- 6) Be given a reasonable time frame in which to complete missed coursework

Academic Honesty Policy

Students enrolled at South Arkansas Community College are expected at all times to uphold standards of integrity. Students are expected to perform honestly and to work in every way possible to eliminate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism, which are defined as follows:

- Cheating is an attempt to deceive the instructor in his/her effort to evaluate fairly an academic exercise. Cheating includes copying another student's homework, class work, or required project (in whole or in part) and/or presenting another's work as the student's own. Cheating also includes giving, receiving, offering, and/or soliciting information on a quiz, test, or examination.
- Plagiarism is the copying of any published work such as books, magazines, audiovisual programs, electronic media, and films or copying the theme or manuscript of another student. It is plagiarism when one uses direct quotations without proper credit or when one uses the ideas of another without giving proper credit. When three or more consecutive words are borrowed, the borrowing should be recognized by the use of quotation marks and proper parenthetical and bibliographic notations.

If, upon investigation, the instructor determines that the student is guilty of cheating or plagiarism, the following penalties will apply:

- The student will receive a penalty of no less than a zero on the work in question.
- The instructor will submit a Student Academic Misconduct Form, written report of the incident, to the appropriate dean.
- The dean will submit form to Vice President for Learning to determine disciplinary action.
- The Vice President for Learning will determine whether further disciplinary action will be taken.
- All decisions may be appealed for review through the college's academic appeals procedure.

Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Statement

South Arkansas Community College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, creed, gender, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation in making decisions regarding employment, student admission, or other functions, operations, or activities.

Library Services

Library Homepage: <http://southark.libguides.com/homepage> Library Contact: LibraryStaff@southark.edu or 870.864.7115

Procedures to Accommodate Students with Disabilities:

If you need reasonable accommodations because of a disability, please report this to the Vice President of Student Services with proper documentation. . VPSS Contact: 870.875.7262

The Early Alert System

In an effort to ensure student retention and success, South Arkansas Community College employs an Early Alert System to identify and support at-risk students as soon as possible in a given semester. The intent of Early Alert is to provide this assistance while there is still time to address behaviors or issues that have the potential of preventing students from completing their courses and degree plans. Students referred through the Early Alert System will be required to work on a corrective action plan with their student advising coach and to include attendance accountability and mandatory academic tutoring either in the academic division or in the Testing and Learning Center (TLC).

Once the Student Advising Coach has met with the referred student, and again when the student has met the prescribed corrective actions, the coach will update the Early Alert System so that the instructor is kept informed of the progress in resolving issues.

Behavioral Review Team

At South Arkansas Community College (SouthArk), we are committed to proactive leadership in student wellbeing and campus safety. By focusing on prevention and early intervention with campus situations that involve any person experiencing distress or engaging in harmful or disruptive behaviors, the BRT will serve as the coordinating hub of existing resources to develop intervention and support strategies and offer case management. Students, faculty, staff, and campus guests are encouraged to report any person on campus who is a concern. BRT Contact: 870.875.7262 BRT@southark.edu

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