MACRA Online Course – MACRA MADE EASY: Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Prerequisites: Minimum of two years coding experience and coding certification strongly recommended.

Clock Hours: 7 (*Note:* 7 clock hours accounts only for time spent in the online course and does not include time spent outside the course or study time. Study time will vary widely per individual.)

Course Length: To be completed at student's own pace within a 1-year period or less. Enrollment date begins at date of purchase. Monthly course extensions may be purchased.

Class Hours: Days/Times Per Week: Online course, independent self-study, no classroom meetings; student may login to course at their own time schedule, no specific login times.

Certificate of Completion Issued: Yes

CEUs: 7 CEUs upon completion (AAPC certified prior to enrollment; some certifications excluded – see AAPC website for more details.)

Course Description:
The coding landscape in physician practices is changing rapidly under the new Quality Payment Program (QPP), enacted by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). Coder's play a key role in the successful transition of physicians and providers to new payment methods. Fundamental concepts in value-based care and quality payment models require professional fee coders and billers to shift from a procedural focus to a patient outcome focus. This course is designed to provide coders and other interested healthcare professionals with the knowledge required to apply their coding skills in a manner that continues to support changing payment rules.

Essential QPP concepts are presented from the viewpoint of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This course includes detailed information in the reporting and scoring of clinical data as related to physicians' payments under new payment tracks. Students will gain necessary insight leading to the ability to demonstrate their working knowledge and proficiency with MACRA.

This is a self-led micro training course designed to deliver necessary insights in a condensed time frame. In most cases, the course is completed within 6 hours.

Course Objectives:
- Upon completing this class, Students will have studied the concepts, skills, knowledge and terminology used within the QPP.
- Recognize the political and financial implications of MACRA associated with Medicare Part B payments.
- Students will recognize and correctly use coding conventions and guidelines as required for the 2019 performance period of the QPP and its two participation tracks: the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs).
- Demonstrate knowledge and competence in the processes of changing requirements for physician's payments under:
    i.   Advanced APMs
    ii. MIPs
    iii. MIPS APMs
- Explain the fundamentals of QPP provider eligibility
- Identify variances in QPP related reporting options
- Understand how bonuses are calculated

- Understand how scores are calculated for MIPS performance categories
- Understand how the MIPS Final Score is calculated
- Develop knowledge for the AAPC MACRA Proficiency Exam

Course Content:

Reading and Exercises: Textbook, *AAPC's MACRA Made Easy: Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency* (online PDF)

> *Exercises are listed in italics following the reading assignments.

- Introduction
- Chapter 1 – Quality Payment Program Overview
    - i. *Review the glossary in your textbook, MACRA Terminology and Common Acronyms*
- Chapter 2 – Eligibility and Exceptions
    - i. *Review the QPP Participation Status Tool at https://qpp.cms.gov*
- Chapter 3 – Payment Adjustments and Bonus Options
- Chapter 4 – Small Practices
- Chapter 5 – Alternate Payment Models
    - i. *Go to https://qpp.cms.gov/apms/overview and review the current lists of MIPS APMs, Advanced APMs, and All-Payer Advanced APMs.*
- Chapter 6 – MIPS - Overview
    - i. *Read two articles about MIPS on AAPC's Knowledge Center (https://www.aapc.com/blog) and review Appendix 1 in your textbook: MIPS Reporting Requirements At-A-Glance*
- Chapter 7 – MIPS – Quality
    - i. *Review Appendix 2 in your textbook: Quality Measures Classified as "High Priority"*
- Chapter 8 – IPS – Cost
    - i. *Review the 2019 Cost measures at https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/explore-measures/cost?py=2019#measure, and download and review the 2019 Cost measure code lists from https://qpp.cms.gov/about/resource-library*
- Chapter 9 – MIPS - Promoting Interoperability
    - i. *Review the 2019 Promoting Interoperability measures at https://qpp.cms.gov/mips/explore-measures/promoting-interoperability?py=2019#measures*
- Chapter 10 – MIPS - Improvement Activities
    - i. *Review Appendix 3 in your textbook: High and Medium Weighted Improvement Activities*
- Chapter 11 – Calculating the MIPS Final Score
- Chapter 12 – Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS APMs
    - i. *Review AAPC's MIPS Score Calculator at https://www.aapc.com/macra/macra-calculator.aspx*

- Tips for MACRA Compliance in 2019

    i. *Read and review the document located at:*
       https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_Executive_Summary_of_Final_Rule.pdf

- Watch the online interactive lecture: MACRA Proficiency Lecture
- Take the 2019 AAPC MACRA Proficiency Exam

Methods of Evaluation:

The instructional methods used include reading assignments, interactive audio/video lecture, and a final proficiency exam. To achieve proficiency and earn CEU's students must successfully complete the course within the allotted time frame of 1 year or less (monthly extensions may be purchased).

Successful course completion includes:

- A passing score of 70% or higher on the 2019 AAPC MACRA Proficiency Exam
    o This is a 100 question, multiple choice exam that must be completed within 90 minutes. A score of 70% or higher is required for passing. Two exam attempts are allowed. This is not a certification exam, it is a proficiency test, however, AAPC recognizes the need of the hiring public to identify individuals who have a working knowledge of MACRA. Therefore, successful examinees will be permitted to include the designation 2019 AAPC MACRA Proficient with their certification(s) on a signature line. For example: *Jane Smith, CPC, 2019 AAPC MACRA Proficient*

Included Reading Material:

1. AAPC's MACRA Made Easy: Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency, 2019, AAPC publisher; (available online only in PDF format, no textbook will be issued with this course)

Computer Requirements: High-speed Internet connection with Blackboard supported Operating System & Web browser (see https://www.aapc.com/training/macra-proficiency-assessment.aspx); Adobe Flash Player; Adobe Acrobat Reader. For best experience, use of a mobile device is not recommended.

Course Enrollment Fee: Payment is due in full at time of enrollment. Fees listed do not include any required or recommended textbooks/supplies or computer requirements, which are to be purchased separately by the student. Prices are variable and subject to change, see AAPC website for most current enrollment fees: https://www.aapc.com/training/macra-proficiency-assessment.aspx