

Syllabus & Lesson Plan



AAPC's

MACRA Made Easy

2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Approved for 5 AAPC CEUs



SYLLABUS: AAPC’s MACRA MADE EASY -2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

TEXTBOOKS

- 2017 AAPC “AAPC’s: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency” (included with this course)
- 2017 AMA CPT® Professional Edition Book (recommended)
- 2017 ICD-10-CM (recommended)
- Expert Edition 2017 HCPCS Level II Book (recommended)

LESSON PLAN FORMAT

This course is a self-directed study format. Units are formatted as follows:

- Reading and Study Assignment
- Lessons Exercises
- Unit Quizzes

QUIZ

Unit quizzes are designed to stimulate problem solving abilities and critical thinking skills. Professional Medical Coders must be experts in conducting research. All unit quizzes are “open book” and you are permitted to use any resource available to you to answer questions.

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

The instructional methods used include reading assignments, lessons exercises, and unit quizzes. To receive the certificate of completion, students must achieve a passing score of at least 70% or higher on the 2017 AAPC MACRA Proficiency test, and complete the course.

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SYLLABUS

MACRA Made Easy 2017 Guidance for APM & MIPS Proficiency

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). Coders 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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Upon completing this class, Students will have studied the concepts, skills, knowledge and terminology used within the QPP today.
2. Recognize the political and financial implications associated with Medicare Part B payments.
3. Students will recognize and correctly use coding conventions and guidelines to support requirements in 2017 Quality Performance Measure reporting
4. Demonstrate knowledge and competence in the processes of changing requirements for physician's payments under:
 - a. Traditional Payment Models
 - b. APMs
 - c. MIPS
 - d. MIPS APMs
5. Explain the fundamentals of QPP provider eligibility
6. Identify variances in QPP related reporting options
7. Recognize and explain the considerations of privacy and security of medical information.
8. Understand how bonuses are calculated under Advanced APMs

9. Understand how scores are calculated for Performance Measures including Quality, Advancing Care Information, and Improvement Activities.
10. Understand how the MIPS Final Score is calculated
11. Develop knowledge leading up to the ability to successfully sit for 2017 AAPC MACRA Proficiency testing.

COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisite: 60-minute Webinar - AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy! Special Presentation for APM and MIPS Proficiency in 2017

Timing: This course is self-led. It typically takes 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete the study materials. The AAPC MACRA Proficiency Exam is a timed exam that must be completed within 90 minutes. Average time to complete this course is 5 hours.

Units:

1. Introduction to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)
2. MACRA Eligibility and Impact
3. Alternate Payment Models
4. Merit Based Incentive Payment System- Overview
5. Merit Based Incentive Payment System – Quality
6. Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Advancing Care Information
7. Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Improvement Activities
8. Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS
9. Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS APMs
10. Next Steps for MACRA Compliance in 2017

LESSON PLANS

Unit 1: Introduction to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 1 hour 30 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will have an introductory understanding of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"It takes considerable knowledge just to realize the extent of your own ignorance." - Thomas Sowell

Reading and Study:

- Read the Introduction in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency
- Listen to the AAPC's: Special Presentation: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency Webinar (60 minutes)

Lessons Exercises:

- Review Appendix 6 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Unit Quiz:

- MACRA Introduction

UNIT 2: MACRA Eligibility and Impact

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in provider eligibility and its impact under MACRA.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face... do the thing you think you cannot do.” Eleanor Roosevelt

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 1 in your Textbook: AAPC “AAPC’s: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Review the Flow Chart in Appendix 1 in your Textbook: AAPC “AAPC’s: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency and compare it to your current situation

Unit Quiz:

- MACRA Eligibility

UNIT 3: Alternate Payment Models

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts Alternate Payment Models under MACRA.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, they make them."--George Bernard Shaw

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 2 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Review the Flow Chart in Appendix 2 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency and compare it to your current situation

Unit Quiz:

- MACRA Eligibility Alternate Payment Models

UNIT 4: Merit Based Incentive Payment System- Overview

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in the format and structure of the Merit Based Incentive Payment System under MACRA.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"Luck is not chance, it's toil; fortune's expensive smile is earned." - Emily Dickinson

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 3 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Do an internet news search for the Merit Based Incentive Payment System and read at least 2 articles

Unit Quiz:

- Merit Based Incentive Payment System

UNIT 5: Merit Based Incentive Payment System – Quality

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in the Quality Performance Measure under the Merit Based Incentive Payment System.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run."--Babe Ruth

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 4 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Review Appendix 4 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Unit Quiz:

- Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Quality

UNIT 6: Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Advancing Care Information

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in the Advancing Care Information Performance Measure under the Merit Based Incentive Payment System.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"Everything success begins with: Where am I today? Where do I want to be? How will I get there?"—A.P. Sherman

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 5 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Review the Excel list of Face to Face codes. You can download them from <https://tinyurl.com/zl76pxa>

Unit Quiz:

- Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Advancing Care Information

UNIT 7: Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Improvement Activities

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in the Improvement Activities Performance Measure under the Merit Based Incentive Payment System.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.” –Mark Twain

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 6 in your Textbook: AAPC “AAPC’s: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Review Appendix 5 in your Textbook: AAPC “AAPC’s: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Unit Quiz:

- Merit Based Incentive Payment System - Improvement Activities

UNIT 8: Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in calculating the Final Score Under the Merit Based Incentive Payment System.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"Can't never did anything."—Unknown

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 7 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Review Appendix 3 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Unit Quiz:

- Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS

UNIT 9: Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS APMs

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts in calculating the Final Score Under MIPS APMs.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

"Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go." - William Feather

Reading and Study:

- Read the Chapter 8 in your Textbook: AAPC "AAPC's: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

- Read and review the document located at:
https://qpp.cms.gov/docs/QPP_Advanced_APMs_in_2017.pdf

Unit Quiz:

- Calculating the Final Score Under MIPS APMs

"It's never too late to be who you might have been." George Eliot

UNIT 10: Next Steps for MACRA Compliance in 2017

Time: This course can be completed in your own time. It typically takes 20 minutes to complete this unit.

Objective: Upon completing this class, students will understand key concepts to navigate next steps in MACRA compliance for 2017.

Instructions:

Thoroughly complete the Reading and Study assignment listed below. Your reading assignments are designed to give you knowledge-level material on the subject. They are an essential building block to meeting the course objectives.

The Lessons Exercises assignment is part of the learning process and is not part of the evaluation process. Its purpose is to help you prepare for the unit quiz.

When you have completed the Reading and Study, and Lessons Exercises assignments you may begin your unit quiz. Learn from the quiz! Although your primary concern is probably your score, the true value of test taking is feedback. Did you learn the things you need to demonstrate proficiency in the topic?

“The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.” –Amelia Earhart

Reading and Study:

- Read the Next Steps for MACRA Compliance in 2017 your Textbook: AAPC “AAPC’s: MACRA Made Easy - 2017 Guidance for APM and MIPS Proficiency

Lessons Exercises:

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

Unit Quiz:

- Next Steps for MACRA Compliance in 2017

About 2017 AAPC MACRA Proficiency Testing

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. AAPC believes coders with demonstrated proficiency are best capable of supporting efforts needed during the payment model transition.

The 2017 AAPC MACRA Proficiency test assesses the proficiency and underlying knowledge of key concepts related to the new Quality Payment Program (QPP), enacted by the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA). The test is specific to 2017.

The test covers essential QPP concepts from the viewpoint of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the reporting and scoring requirements of clinical data as related to physicians' payments under the new payment tracks.

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. 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 testers will be permitted to include the designation 2017 AAPC MACRA Proficient with their Certification/s on a signature line. For example:

Jane Smith, CPC, 2017 AAPC MACRA Proficient