



Advanced Coding Specialist – Pain Management (ACS-PM)

As a service to candidates, this outline is designed to provide representative examples of the concepts covered on the ACS-PM examination. While it should serve as a guide for your test preparation, you should not consider it inclusive of every procedure or issue addressed within the examination.

Examination Outline

Pain Management Terms and Abbreviations, i.e. Anatomy and Diagnoses

- EMG
- Facet
- Intrathecal
- Spinous Process

General Coding and Billing Principles

- CPT Instructions and parenthetical notes
- Place of service
- CCI Edit
- Payer Rules / Regulations

Evaluation and Management Coding

- 1995 and 1997 guidelines (will be provided for reference)
- E/M Categories
 - New versus Established, Inpatient versus Office/Outpatient
- E/M Levels of Service
- Consultations: Inpatient and outpatient

Procedure Coding

Includes Pain management modifiers and applicable E&M coding

- Injections
 - Epidural injections
 - Facet joint injections
 - Soft tissue injections
 - Chemodenervation
- Neurolysis/Destructive Procedures
 - Chemical injections
 - Radiofrequency destruction
- Radiology & Radiological Guidance
 - Component coding
 - Epidurography
- Other Interventional Pain Management
 - Implanted medication pump procedures

- IDET
 - Vertebroplasty
- **Electrodiagnostic Services**
 - Electromyography
 - Nerve Conduction Testing
- **Psychological Pain Management**
 - Psychiatric interview
 - Psychotherapy
- **Other Pain Management Procedures**
 - Physical medicine modalities
 - Acupuncture
- **Modifiers**
 - CPT Modifiers
 - HCPCS Modifiers

Diagnosis Coding

- Application of ICD-9-CM Guidelines
- Pain symptoms
- Spinal disorders
- Common comorbid conditions
- Complications
- Adverse drug reactions
- Late effect coding
- V and E codes

HCPCS Coding

- Medication/Drug coding
- Calculation of correct units for billing
- Supply coding