

# HIM-2131: CODING WITH CPT (CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY)

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing:** HIM-2131 : Coding with CPT (Current Procedural Terminology)

**Board of Trustees:**

May 2026

**Academic Term:**

Summer 2026

**Subject Code**

HIM - Health Information Management

**Course Number:**

2131

**Title:**

Coding with CPT (Current Procedural Terminology)

**Catalog Description:**

Introduction to the basic concepts of coding using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II coding systems to report medical procedures and services. Students will learn to interpret medical documentation, assign appropriate procedural codes, and apply current coding guidelines for outpatient, physician office, and ambulatory settings.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

2

**Lab Hour(s):**

2

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

HTEC-1050 Introduction to Medical Terminology, or HTEC-1060 Medical Terminology I.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate proficiency in the use of the CPT and HCPCS Level II coding manuals.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Identify the structure and format of CPT and HCPCS Level II manuals.
2. Explain the purpose and use of CPT, HCPCS Level II, and modifiers in healthcare billing.
3. Utilize current coding references, software tools, and online coding resources.
4. Code real-world scenarios.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Apply coding guidelines accurately to assign procedure codes across all sections of CPT.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Apply CPT codes for surgical procedures, radiology, pathology, laboratory, and medicine services.
  2. Assign Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes using documentation guidelines.
  3. Apply CPT coding guidelines across all code sections.
  4. Use the CPT Index and main text effectively to locate and verify codes.
  5. Interpret CPT instructional notes and symbols to ensure code accuracy.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Interpret physician documentation to select the appropriate CPT and HCPCS Level II codes.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Analyze clinical documentation to determine procedural components.
  2. Assign codes based on medical necessity and provider documentation.
  3. Evaluate the impact of incomplete or ambiguous documentation on coding accuracy.
  4. Apply coding conventions to complex or multi-step clinical scenarios.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Correctly apply modifiers to describe circumstances that affect procedures or services.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Identify modifier definitions and their appropriate use in CPT and HCPCS coding.
  2. Apply multiple modifiers accurately to complex coding scenarios.
  3. Use CPT Appendix A and payer-specific guidelines to ensure compliance.
  4. Evaluate how modifiers affect reimbursement and claims processing.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Analyze case scenarios to ensure compliance with coding regulations and payer requirements.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Not Applicable: No Essential Learning Outcomes mapped. This course does not require application-level assignments that demonstrate mastery in any of the Essential Learning Outcomes.

**Objective(s):**

1. Apply National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits and payer-specific rules in coding.
  2. Identify unbundling, upcoding, and other noncompliant coding practices.
  3. Evaluate coding decisions for regulatory and ethical compliance.
  4. Use case studies to demonstrate accurate procedural coding under real-world conditions.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Class participation
2. Quizzes and examinations

3. Homework assignments
4. Final examination

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Coding defined
2. Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II Coding System
  1. Overview of HCPCS
  2. HCPCS Level II Codes
  3. Assigning HCPCS Level II Codes
  4. Determining Payer Responsibility
3. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT HCPCS Level I) Coding System
  1. Introduction to CPT (HCPCS Level I) Coding
  2. History of CPT (HCPCS Level I)
  3. Overview of CPT (HCPCS Level I)
  4. Organization of CPT (HCPCS Level I)
  5. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Index
  6. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Appendices
  7. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Symbols
  8. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Sections, Subsections, Categories, and Subcategories
  9. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Modifiers
10. National Correct coding Initiative (NCCI)
4. Evaluation and Management
  1. Overview of Evaluation and Management Section
  2. Evaluation and Management Section Guidelines
  3. Evaluation and Management Levels of Service
  4. Evaluation and Management Categories and Subcategories
5. Anesthesia
  1. Anesthesia Terminology
  2. Overview of Anesthesia Section
  3. Anesthesia Section Guidelines
  4. Anesthesia Subsections
6. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Surgery
  1. Overview of Surgery Section
  2. General Subsection
  3. Integumentary System Subsection
  4. Musculoskeletal System Subsection
  5. Respiratory System Subsection
  6. Cardiovascular System Subsection
  7. Hemic and Lymphatic Systems Subsection
  8. Mediastinum and Diaphragm Subsection
  9. Digestive System Subsection
  10. Urinary System Subsection
  11. Male Genital System Subsection Modifiers
  12. Reproductive System Procedures Subsection
  13. Intersex Surgery Subsection
  14. Female Genital System Subsection
  15. Maternity Care and Delivery Subsection
  16. Endocrine System Subsection Nervous System Subsection
  17. Eye and Ocular Adnexa Subsection
  18. Auditory System Subsection
  19. Operating Microscope Subsection
7. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Radiology
  1. Radiology Terminology
  2. Overview of Radiology Section
  3. Radiology Service Guidelines
  4. Radiology Subsections

8. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Pathology and Laboratory
  1. Overview of Pathology and Laboratory Section
  2. Pathology and Laboratory Section Guidelines
  3. Pathology and Laboratory Subsections
9. CPT (HCPCS Level I) Medicine
  1. Overview of Medicine Section
  2. Medicine Section Guidelines
  3. Medicine Subsections
10. Identification of products, supplies, and services with HCPCS Level II Codes
  1. Drugs
  2. Biologicals
  3. Non-drug and non-biological items
  4. Supplies
  5. Services not included in the CPT (HCPCS Level I) code set jurisdiction
  6. Ambulance services
    - a. Durable medical equipment,
    - b. Prosthetics
    - c. Orthotics and supplies

### Religious Accommodation

Before reviewing the course schedule, students should carefully review the following religious accommodation policy and other required instructional policies:

#### Religious Accommodation:

Students seeking an accommodation for absences permitted under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act must provide the instructor with written notice of the specific dates for which the student requires an accommodation and must do so not later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction. Please submit requests for accommodations at this link: <https://portal2.tri-c.edu/ReligiousAccommodation/ReligiousAccommodationForm>. Students with questions about their religious accommodations under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act may contact the College's Office of General Counsel and Legal Services by phone at 216.987.4856 or via email at [legal@tri-c.edu](mailto:legal@tri-c.edu).

#### Other Required Instructional Policies:

<https://www.tri-c.edu/student-resources/curriculum/documents/syllabus-part-b.pdf>

### Weekly Schedule

	Topics
Week 1	Lecture: Course Syllabus Overview Major features of coding book How to tab CPT codebook  Lab: Tab CPT codebook
Week 2	Lecture: HCPCS - Level I & Level II CPT Level I Coding System Lab: Coding
Week 3	Lecture: Evaluation & Management Lab: Evaluation & Management
Week 4	Lecture: Evaluation & Management Lab: Evaluation & Management
Week 5	Lecture: Anesthesia Lab: Anesthesia Coding
Week 6	Lecture: Surgery I Lab: Coding
Week 7	Lecture: Surgery II Lab: Coding
Week 8	Lecture: Anesthesia Section Guidelines Lab: Coding

Week 9	Lecture: Surgery III Lab: Coding
Week 10	Lecture: Surgery IV Lab: Coding
Week 11	Lecture: Radiology Lab: Coding
Week 12	Lecture: Pathology & Laboratory Lab: Coding
Week 13	Lecture: CPT Medicine Lab: Coding
Week 14	Coding practice
Week 15	Review for final exam Coding practice
Week 16	Comprehensive Final Exam

The Course Schedule is subject to change due to pedagogical needs, instructor discretion, parts of term, and unexpected events.

### Required/Recommended Readings

Readings will be from one of the below recommended textbooks, as selected by the individual instructors.

- Bowie, Mary Jo. *Understanding Current Procedural Terminology and HCPCS Coding Systems*.
- Green, Michelle. *3-2-1-Code-It!*.
- American Medical Association. *Current Procedural Terminology*.
- CMS HCPCS Level II Coding Process & Criteria (<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/healthcare-common-procedure-system/level-ii-coding-process/>)
- CMS HCPCS Quarterly Updates (<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/healthcare-common-procedure-system/quarterly-update/>)
- AAPC HCPCS Code Lookup (<https://www.aapc.com/codes/hcpcs-codes-range/?srsltid=AfmBOoqbi1-TfHZalPwB88TdY4simoteWAoTsSoobL0qA-f8zQNtTPsq>)

### Resources for the Instructor

Michelle Green. (2023) *3-2-1-Code-It!*, Boston: Cengage.

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American Medical Association. (2023) *Current Procedural Terminology*, Chicago: American Medical Association.

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Bowie, Mary Jo . *Understanding Current Procedural Terminology and HCPCS Coding Systems*. Chicago: Cengage, 2023.

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### Additional Resources for the Instructor

1. 3M Encoder software
2. Internet searches

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