

# Grow Your Coding Career, One CEU at a Time

## CODING, AUDITS, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

By Sandy Frey, RHIT, CCS, and Danielle P. Lynn, RHIA, CPC-A

COMPLETE AND ACCURATE coding is essential to the well-being of a healthcare facility. Its impact stretches far and wide, which includes providing data for quality reporting, medical and health services research, case mix management, financial reimbursement, and much more. That puts a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of a coder. Once a record is coded, there is a very real possibility that a third-party auditor will scrutinize that claim and deny it for any number of reasons.

### Get to Know the RAC Program

One of the most well-known auditors in the business is the Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) Program. They review post-payment Medicare Fee-For-Service (Part A and Part B) claims and return inappropriately billed funds back to the Medicare program. To date, RAC has returned more than \$10 billion back to the Medicare Trust Fund. RAC audits temporarily decreased while the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the new Fee-for-Service (FFS) Recovery Auditor contracts. In May 2017, the last of the contracts were approved—which means RAC audits are back in full force.

RAC has many approved issues for audit, including DRG Coding Validation. Coders need to be certain that all codes submitted on a claim are valid and relevant so that it can withstand the scrutiny of an audit. Coders need to be constantly updating their knowledge and skills to achieve the necessary level of accuracy to avoid RAC claim denials. That's where continuing education units (CEUs) come into play.



Sandy Frey, RHIT, CCS, AHIMA  
Approved ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainer,  
Senior Manager Quality  
Audit and Review, Ovation  
Revenue Cycle Services



Danielle P. Lynn, RHIA, CPC-A  
Client Manager, Ovation Revenue  
Cycle Services

---

### Grow Your Coding Career, One CEU at a Time

You may earn medical coding CEUs in a wide variety of ways—one of which is being made available online with no associated costs to you.

Ovation Revenue Cycle Services (Ovation RCS) regularly submits education to AHIMA for CEU approval, so that in addition to providing coding guidance to our attendees, we can also offer a CEU credit for their participation.

Once approved, Ovation RCS proudly offers the education via webinar format to the greater health information management community—at no cost to the participants. Our education is created within Ovation RCS's four walls and is presented by our dedicated coding management team. The topics are carefully chosen to offer our audience the most beneficial and relevant information at the time of presentation.

As mentioned earlier, RAC has many approved issues for audit, one of which is DRG Coding Validation audits. Recognizing the challenge of complication coding and the fact that complication codes may affect the DRG, Ovation RCS chose complication coding as a topic of one of our recent approved webinars. The webinar, "It's Complicated—ICD-10-CM Coding Complications," reviewed the general and chapter-specific coding guidelines surrounding many popular complications, presented coding examples, and reviewed case studies. The following are a few of the important takeaways from the presentation:

Sepsis due to a postprocedural infection:

- As with all postprocedural complications, code assignment is based on the provider's documentation of the relationship between the infection and the procedure.
- The postprocedural infection should be coded first, followed by a code for the specific infection.
- Severe sepsis requires an appropriate code from subcategory R65.2.
- Assign additional codes for any acute organ dysfunction.

Postprocedural infection and postprocedural septic shock:

- The code for the complication should be coded first, followed by code T81.12-, postprocedural septic shock.

For future reference, the entire presentation is available on the Ovation RCS website at [www.ovationrsc.com](http://www.ovationrsc.com) under the Education tab, along with additional archived coding presentations.\*

Renal diseases are another hot topic in coding and assigning the correct DRG, so be sure to be on the lookout for a future webinar on this topic.

## Attending Ovation RCS's FREE Coding Webinars

Attending each Ovation RCS session is simple. All of Ovation RCS's educational programs are hosted via webinars rather than face-to-face meetings. Each webinar is held online—giving full access to one or to hundreds of attendees without travel or additional expense for the audience.

A registration link will be made available on our website for each upcoming webinar. Once registered, you will receive email notifications on how to access the presentation on the scheduled date. At the end of the presentation, there will always be a Q&A opportunity with the speaker as well as a survey sent upon conclusion to the participants for feedback and suggestions.

These cost-effective educational sessions are complete with audio and a slide show, covering a broad scope of topics. You can earn a free CEU without ever leaving the office or your desk. Ovation RCS offers webinars approved by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) for one CEU for use in fulfilling the continuing education requirements.\*\*

Complication coding, pituitary tumors, and mastectomies are our most recent educational units. Please check our website for registration to upcoming classes.

---

*Sandy Frey joined Ovation Revenue Cycle Services (Ovation RCS) in 2014. She has developed and monitored the coder quality and education services of Ovation RCS, a provider-proven results-driven organization. Prior to Ovation RCS she had extensive experience as a coder, auditor, manager, and educator. Her expertise includes inpatient, outpatient, hierarchical condition category, and physician coding. Danielle P. Lynn joined Ovation RCS in 2016 after graduating from University of Pittsburgh's HIM AHIMA-certified program. In her role as a client manager, Lynn works closely with Ovation RCS's clients. Additionally, she has been an integral part of the development and implementation of Ovation RCS's remarkable webinar/learning series.*

\*CEUs are only available to attendees who participate in the live event. Ovation RCS's upcoming webinar registration will always be on the website, and you may also notify Ovation RCS if you would like email notifications of upcoming webinars.

\*\*Granting prior approval from AHIMA does not constitute the endorsement of the program content or its program sponsor.