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## Week 1 Chapter 1 Workbook Assignments 1.1 to 1.4

### Workbook 1.1-Interview of Coding Professional

The professional selected for this interview was Wendy Sheriff a certified RHIT professional employed as a medical coder at Northern Lights. She also teaches Medical Terminology at Beal College, where she herself was a HIT student.

Wendy was a school bus driver for twenty-five years, as well as running an orchard with her husband. While she enjoyed her career, she wanted more security and to know that when it came time to retire, she could be comfortable. She wanted a profession where she had benefits, paid time off, and a higher income, and she also had always had an interest in the medical field, all of which contributed to her pursuit of a HIT career. While coding was not her top pick in this field, she had the opportunity to work at Northern Lights in this capacity and saw it as a foot in the door to perhaps a different job, but found after a short time that she really enjoyed the coding profession and the flexibility to be able to work her own schedule from home which is one of her favorite parts of her job.

For someone entering the coding profession, Wendy suggested the person who would have success should have certain skills and proficiencies. Some of the skills that she pointed out that were important for this job would be typing proficiency, the ability to problem solve, an analytical mind-set, and being able to work independently. She also said that it is important to know when you need to step away from something that is particularly challenging so that you can clear your head and attack it with a fresh set of eyes.

As a medical coding specialist, Wendy is responsible for properly coding diagnoses and treatments, reading and analyzing patient records, and determining the correct codes for patient records. A typical day for her starts by resolving any items from the day before, using Code Assist to resolve charge, creating spreadsheets to transfer information from the previous day, and keeping up with both Corporate emails, as well as emails regarding anything that needs to be corrected from the previous days work. She and her coding partner often alternate responsibilities and one day Wendy will work on surgeries, while her partner works on the clinics and vice versa. Her workload varies from day to day depending on what she is working on, for example a day that she is doing the clinics can sometimes mean a longer workday as those items/charges must be processed that day.

While she thoroughly enjoys her work as a Medical Coding Specialist, it is not without some challenges. She said that it is in the nature of the field for things to be constantly changing and updating and that keeping on top of those changes can be a struggle. Another challenge is having confidence in what you do and the security in yourself to be able to reach out to doctor's and other medical professionals when you need more information from them in order to be able to complete your job. One of the things that Wendy likes the most about her position is that she can work from home, but this can also be a challenge because you have very little face to face interaction with other members of your team.

In closing she offered up the following advice for someone entering this field: "be flexible, learn as much as you can (knowledge is power), get thick skin, and just do your best."

Speaking with Wendy from the perspective of someone who hopes to pursue a career as a Medical Coding Specialist gave a god insight into what a typical day might look like, the challenges that may be present, as well as the high points of the job. It is clearly something that requires attention to detail and diligence in making sure that you are up to speed on the latest information pertaining to coding and the software used to do the job. While it is a bit overwhelming to think about now being so new to the HIT field, I can see myself as a coding specialist. The realization that this position would give me the ability to work from home is appealing especially as someone who hopes to be able to work and care form my family.

## Workbook 1.2 Professional Discussion Forums

Discussion Forum Website: <https://www.aapc.com/certification/medical-coding-certification.aspx>

### Discussion Forum- Share Your Favorite Coding Resources

The particular forum that I found was not one of the links listed as I was unable to actually get any of the links to work as indicated. I found the above site and even on this site you were required to be a member in order to actual post any comments or questions, however the content included would certainly prove useful in the future and I would consider becoming a member. The AAPC Website would be extremely useful on the job as it provides a wealth of information and resources, encompassing a variety of topics from medical billing and coding, employment discussions, conference information, auditing topics, and other HIT topics.

One forum that was of interest to me and that I could make sense of at this early stage in my HIT education was titled "Share Your Favorite Coding Resources." In this forum coding specialist members shared some of their favorite coding related websites. One that was shared and I thought could be particularly useful for me during school was <http://www.studystack.com/hangman-54807>. This site, according to the member who shared it has a variety of topics hosted as games like hangman and word searches to help the user study up on different topics in the form of playing games. Aside from the "Share Your Favorite Coding

Resources” forum, the AAPC site also had a “Medical Coding General Discussion” forum where members were asking other members questions related how to code certain cases that they were working on, and even why items were coded a certain way.

The setup of this site was very user friendly, and forums were clearly labeled and easy to follow. I assume that posting a comment or question would also be rather easy if you were actually a member. The only complaint/issue I would say I had with this site is that you had to be a member in order to participate in any of the discussions or to post your own question, which as a new student in HIT wasn't very helpful.

### Workbook 1.3

- 1) Correct
- 2) ?
- 3) Correct
- 4) N39.0 and A04.2
- 5) ?

### Workbook 1.4

- 1) a. August 5  
b. Right anterior cruciate ligament rupture with a possible lateral meniscus tear  
c. Right knee anterior cruciate ligament rupture with a lateral meniscus tear  
d. Right knee arthroscopy, partial lateral menisectomy and anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction, bone patellar bone autograft, arthroscopy
  
- 2) a. S83.509A, S83.289A  
b. S83.289A
  
- 3) a. S83.509A, S83.289A  
b. 29881-RT, 29888-RT  
c. 29875-RT