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December 2020 Auditor Bulletin

Welcome to our December 2020 Bulletin for Approved Clinical Coding Auditors.

1 Clinical Coding Auditor Forums

As notified in the blog published on the Clinical Coding Approved Auditor workspace on 6 November, the March 2021 Auditor Forums will now be delivered online via WebEx, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated government social distancing measures.

We still envisage a start time of 09.30 and finish time of 16.00 for the online events and will ensure several comfort breaks throughout the day. We will transfer all current bookings for each event to the corresponding online event, i.e. AF1, AF2, AF3 and AF4, so unless you need to change the date of your event for any reason, you will be required to dial in on the date you've booked. Full joining instructions will be issued 2-3 weeks before the events.

If you have yet to book onto a Forum, please visit Delen.

1.1 Agenda items

We intend to make the online events as interactive as possible. If you would like to submit an agenda item, or indeed if you are willing to share your audit experiences during the pandemic with fellow approved auditors, please let us know by emailing information.standards@nhs.net by close of play on Friday 22 January 2021. For example, have you been conducting audit remotely this financial year and, if so, what challenges have you faced? How have you overcome these challenges? Have the audit findings and error types surprised you?

Thank you to those auditors who have already suggested agenda items.

2 CCAP Framework Consultation Results

Thank you to all approved auditors who took part in the Clinical Coding Auditor and Trainer Frameworks Service Improvement consultation which was open between 31 March and 30 June 2020. We have now published the results on Delen and have used the feedback to inform areas of development for the next 2-3 years.

In terms of the Clinical Coding Auditor Programme, this will include:

- creating an Audit Sub-Group to update the Clinical Coding Audit Methodology and develop an Auditor Competency Framework
- refreshing the Audit Workshop to replace the existing Meadows content with new material and develop revised marked assessment criteria and some potential online / blended learning elements
- introducing a more robust marking scheme into the auditor assessment day Practical paper around sequencing and fifth characters
- devising a simple and less time-consuming replacement for the Auditor Log Book from 2021-22
• including a recommendation that all approved auditors attend Introduction to Classifications training during 2021/22
• including annual completion of the Auditor eAssessment Tool within the requirements framework from 2021/22.

In September 2019, we called for volunteers for an Audit Sub-Group and received feedback from 75 auditors / managers / system supplier representatives. We plan to ask Audit Sub-Group volunteers to work with us to update the Clinical Coding Audit Methodology and to develop an Auditor Competency Framework and will contact all volunteers early in January 2021 to see if they still want to participate before holding an inaugural Sub-Group meeting later in January. If we still have such a high number of eager participants, we will split the work into two different Audit Sub-Groups.

3 Auditor eAssessment

Several approved auditors have recently emailed information.standards@nhs.net asking for access to the Auditor eAssessment modules.

Please note that, as confirmed in Section 5 of the 2020/21 Auditor Log Book, the eAssessment does not apply this financial year because we are holding Auditor Forums.

We will review the Auditor eAssessment modules and update the content where necessary to reflect OPCS-4.9 and any other changes, ready for use from 1 April 2021. As outlined in Section 2 of this bulletin, we will then make completion of the eAssessment modules an annual requirement from this point on, based on consultation feedback.

4 Approved Clinical Coding Auditor Statistics

As of 1 December 2020, there are 246 Approved Clinical Coding Auditors in the UK. 200 are employed by the NHS and 46 are either independent or employed by commercial organisations.
**5 Auditor Programme Schedule 2021-22**

Although uncertainty due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic remains, the training team are currently drafting a training schedule for 2021/22. Dates, venues, and costs are currently under discussion and once this is complete, we will share the upcoming schedule on Delen.

We plan to deliver a Clinical Coding Auditor Programme during 2021/22. The 41 applicants who successfully applied for the cancelled 2020/21 Auditor assessment day will be automatically carried over, meaning that only four places remain for 2021/22.

Additional applications for the programme will not be accepted until full details have been released on Delen in the new year.

**6 COVID-19 National Clinical Coding Standards and Guidance**

The Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service published a blog on 24 November 2020 advising on further new emergency use codes for COVID-19 and associated national coding standards and guidance. Please familiarise yourself with the new content as soon as you can.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all approved clinical coding auditors a happy festive period and a much nicer 2021.

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The Terminology and Classifications Delivery Service is the definitive source for clinical coding guidance and sets the national classifications coding standards in use in the NHS. For regular updates and important news items, remember to visit Delen https://hscic.kahootz.com/connect.ti/t_c_home/groupHome

For clinical coding queries, national training products, course bookings and enquiries, you can contact us via:

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