

WHAT IS A CLINICAL CODER?

Clinical coders translate descriptions of medical diagnoses and procedures into codes, which record health care data.

ROLES OF A CLINICAL CODER

- Read and analyse medical records to help identify all diagnoses, operations and procedures relevant to the current period of patient care.
- Clarify inconsistent, doubtful or non-specific information in a medical record by consulting with the responsible medical practitioner.
- Allocate codes to patients' current period of care, using knowledge of the information contained within the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, commonly referred to as ICD-10-AM.
- Conduct assessment of work to make sure that there is continuous improvement in ICD-10-AM coding and collection of quality health data.
- Assess the medical record content and highlight shortcomings to management
- Maintain ICD-10-AM coding books to make sure they are updated to the current version being used.
- Assist with the education of clinical staff with regard to ICD-10-AM.
- Liaise with computing and finance staff.
- Assist with medical research and casemix projects.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Clinical coders work mainly in public and private hospitals. Roles vary depending on the size and type of services offered. For example, a coder in a country regional area may be responsible for the production of data for a number of hospitals, involving travel to each. In larger institutions, the role of the coder may also include supervision of coding staff, data analysis and education. Coders may also work in specialist research and clinical units and for health insurance funds.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

To become a clinical coder it is necessary to complete an accredited ICD-10-AM coding course.

Entry to this course requires an 80% pass in the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA) Comprehensive Medical Terminology course or the HIMAA Challenge examination in Medical Terminology.

SUPERVISION PROVIDED

A comprehensive orientation program is provided for all new staff members with ongoing support.

PERSONAL SKILLS REQUIRED OF A CLINICAL CODER

- Able to work with a high degree of precision, paying attention to detail in order to achieve the high levels of accuracy required.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work as part of a team.

Adapted from Australian Government Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations Job Guide www.jobguide.dest.gov.au and SSWAHS staff and reviewed by NSLHD staff.

CLINICAL CODER



- Interested in health care procedures.
- Wiling to continually update skills and knowledge.

CONTACT US: Recruitment Services Unit

NSLHD-Recruitment@health.nsw.gov.au

(02) 9887 5765