



Paraoptometric Coding Certification

CPOC - A person who has attained national recognition via certification by demonstrating proficiency, and expertise, and validating superior knowledge in an optometric coding environment.

Become a Certified Paraoptometric Coder (CPOC)

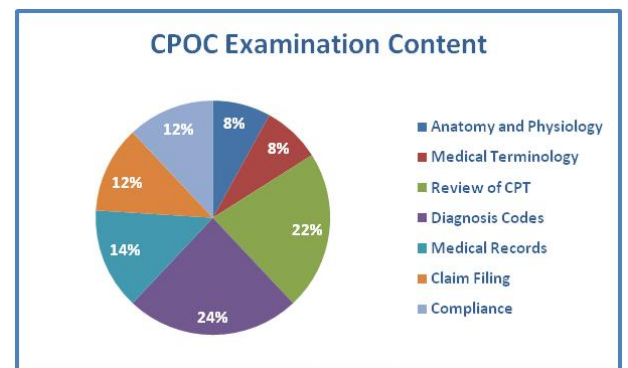
What does a Certified Paraoptometric Coder (CPOC) do?

Paraoptometric coders are responsible for ensuring that all of the information about diagnoses and procedures for patients is accurate and complete. This prevents delays in reimbursement from insurance companies or denials of claims. A certified paraoptometric coder can be the first line of defense against non-compliance and improper coding for the provider. Another benefit of employing a certified coder is maintaining compliance with state and federal laws. This is especially important since the government has started focusing on identifying, decreasing and fining or prosecuting fraudulent claims.

“Employment of medical records and health information technicians is expected to increase by 20 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. Employment growth will result from the increase in the number of medical tests, treatments, and procedures that will be performed. As the population continues to age, the occurrence of health-related problems will increase”, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

What’s the examination about?

The CPOC examination is open-book and consists of 150 multiple choice questions related to anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, CPT® and ICD-9-CM codes, medical records, claim filing, and compliance matters. Candidates will have 3 hours in which to complete the examination.



What content do I need to study?

The full content outline is shown in the CPOC Handbook for Candidates. The **CPOC Study Map** will provide a list of study resources, links, and suggested references according to the subject matter. The **2011 Codes for Optometry and CPT® Standard Edition books** are available from the AOA Order Department. These are the only reference books permitted for use during testing.

How do I apply?

Applications are available on the AOA website: www.aoa.org under "Certification". Read and follow the directions on the application and in the appropriate handbook. All correspondence regarding the application should be directed to the CPC at (800) 365-2219 ext. 4210 or e-mail cpc@aoa.org. Be sure to complete the correct application.....**Application for the CPOC Examination.**

What are the eligibility requirements?

As this examination is not for the beginner coder, candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and have a minimum of 2 years employment in medical coding.

What are the examination dates?

The written examinations will be offered via computer at several hundred sites in the U.S. during these testing periods. Computerized administration offers more flexibility in scheduling and reduces the need for travel. The examinations will be offered daily during the scheduled two-week sessions as follows:

One paper and pencil testing session will be offered annually at Optometry's Meeting in June.

Test Date	Application Deadline Date
May 7-21	Mar 26
*Jun 17	May 6
Aug 13-27	Jul 2
Nov 5-19	Sep 24

***Paper/Pencil administration held in conjunction with Optometry's Meeting® in Salt Lake City UT**

What does the examination cost?

This program is designed for and achievable with minimal assistance from the optometrist and a minimal amount of funds. The examination fee is \$240.00.

How do I start the process?

Easy, just contact the Commission on Paraoptometric Certification at cpc@aoa.org or at 800-365-2219 ext. 4210.

