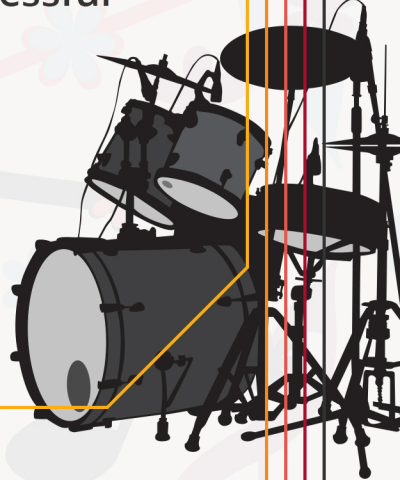


## 5 TRAITS OF A

# ROCK STAR MEDICAL CODER

Do you have what it takes to be a rock star medical coder?

Having a successful career will take more than passing an AAPC medical coding certification exam. Check out the five most common traits of a successful medical coder.



### 1

## KNOWLEDGEABLE

It's not enough to know the basics. Medical coders must stay up-to-date with new codes, health insurance guidelines, or changes in healthcare law.

NEW CODES



HEALTH INSURANCE GUIDELINES



CHANGES IN HEALTHCARE LAW



Attending webinars, conferences, and seminars will help you stay current with the latest trends in medical coding.

WEBINARS



CONFERENCES



SEMINARS



### 2

## ANALYTICAL

A coder must know how to navigate payer websites, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and private payers to find the information needed to make the right code selection. Knowing where to find these guidelines and how to apply them is a skill all coders must have.

PAYER WEBSITES



PRIVATE PAYERS

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

### 3

## CRITICAL THINKER

Medical coders are problem solvers.



Coding requires constant review of documentation to determine what can be coded. Coders then select the proper medical codes to accurately report the services provided and the patient's diagnoses. There is not always one right answer in medical coding.

### 4

## DETAIL ORIENTED

Code selection must be precise. One word can change the entire procedure or diagnosis on some codes. Errors occur when the details are overlooked. Review of documentation requires a keen eye for detail.



### 5

## ORGANIZED

Staying on top of the codes, physician documents, and other information requires excellent organizational skills. Having a manageable structure to follow during the day will free up your energy and resources so you can analyze, research, and code without unnecessary distractions.



The job of a medical coder is not for the timid. It's a challenging profession requiring education, dedication, and commitment to lifelong learning.

EDUCATION

DEDICATION

COMMITMENT



## Do you think you have what it takes to be a medical coder?

Start training at [aapc.com/certification/](http://aapc.com/certification/).