

# 90-Day CPC Exam Study Planner

Week-by-week printable calendar with daily study tasks, checkboxes, and topic tracking — aligned to the AAPC CPC exam.

**100**

Questions

**17**

Domains

**70%**

Pass Mark

**4 hrs**

Exam Duration

## How to Use This Planner

1. Print this planner or use it digitally on a tablet. 2. Follow the 13-week phase structure — each phase builds on the last. 3. Tick the checkbox each day after completing that day's task. 4. Use your CPT and ICD-10-CM codebooks alongside each topic. 5. Complete the 25-question quiz and 100-question mock exam at [ClearCPC.com](https://clearcpc.com).

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## 90-Day Study Plan — Phase Overview

<b>Phase 1</b>	Weeks 1–2	<b>Foundation</b>	Medical terminology, anatomy, code book navigation, CPT structure, ICD-10-CM basics.
<b>Phase 2</b>	Weeks 3–7	<b>Surgery Deep Dive</b>	CPT Surgery (36% of exam) — Integumentary, MSK, Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Digestive, GU, Nervous System.
<b>Phase 3</b>	Weeks 8–9	<b>E&amp;M; + ICD-10-CM</b>	E&M; coding (2021 AMA guidelines), MDM levels, ICD-10-CM sequencing, combination codes, Z-codes.
<b>Phase 4</b>	Weeks 10–11	<b>Remaining Sections</b>	Anesthesia, Radiology, Pathology/Lab, Medicine, HCPCS Level II, Modifiers, NCCI edits.
<b>Phase 5</b>	Weeks 12–13	<b>Mock Exams + Review</b>	Two full 100-question timed mock exams. Review wrong answers. Exam day strategy.

## CPC Exam Domain Weightage

Domain	Approx. Questions	Priority
Surgery CPT — all body systems	~36	<b>Must Master</b>
Evaluation & Management (E&M)	~10	<b>Must Master</b>
Radiology / Pathology / Medicine	~18	High
Medical Terminology & Anatomy	~8	High
Coding Guidelines & Modifiers	~7	High
ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes	~5	High
Anesthesia	~4	Medium
HCPCS Level II	~3	Medium
Reimbursement & Compliance	~9	Medium

# Week 1

## Medical Terminology & Anatomy

Phase 1 — Foundation

	Day	Today's Study Task	Done
	Monday	Prefixes, suffixes, root words — study 30 terms	
	Tuesday	Body systems overview: skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular	
	Wednesday	Digestive, respiratory, nervous, urinary systems	
	Thursday	Endocrine, integumentary, reproductive systems	
	Friday	Anatomical planes, directions, body positions	
	Saturday	Review all terminology — flashcard drill	
	Sunday	Rest / catch-up day	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: Create flashcards for medical terminology. Aim for 30 new terms per day.

**Week  
2****CPT & ICD-10-CM Code Book Navigation**

Phase 1 — Foundation

	Day	Today's Study Task	Done
	Monday	CPT structure: 6 sections, guidelines, symbols explained	
	Tuesday	Using the CPT index — main terms, subterms, cross-references	
	Wednesday	CPT modifiers: Appendix A overview — modifiers 22, 25, 51, 59	
	Thursday	ICD-10-CM structure: 3–7 characters, placeholder X, 7th characters	
	Friday	ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index and Tabular List navigation	
	Saturday	Excludes1 vs Excludes2 notes, Code first / Use additional code	
	Sunday	Review quiz: 10 CPT + 10 ICD-10-CM navigation practice questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**


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■ Tip: Tab your CPT index with sticky notes for Surgery, E&M;, and Modifiers sections.

# Week 3

## Surgery CPT: Integumentary System (10000–19999)

Phase 2 — Surgery Deep Dive

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Skin lesion excision: benign vs malignant, diameter calculation	
Tuesday	Shave removal, destruction, biopsy codes — differences	
Wednesday	Wound repair: simple vs intermediate vs complex, length rules	
Thursday	Adjacent tissue transfer, skin grafts: split vs full thickness	
Friday	Mohs micrographic surgery: stages and tissue blocks	
Saturday	Burns, breast procedures overview	
Sunday	Integumentary coding practice — 15 questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: For lesion excision, always add BOTH margins to the lesion diameter.

# Week 4

## Surgery CPT: Musculoskeletal System (20000–29999)

Phase 2 — Surgery Deep Dive

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Fracture care: open vs closed treatment, manipulation	
Tuesday	Joint procedures: arthrocentesis, arthroplasty codes	
Wednesday	Arthroscopy: knee (29870–29889), shoulder (29800–29828)	
Thursday	Spine surgery: laminectomy, fusion codes, instrumentation	
Friday	Tendon repairs, trigger finger, carpal tunnel release	
Saturday	Hip and knee replacement (27447, 27130)	
Sunday	MSK coding practice — 15 questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: Memorise the difference between open, closed, and percutaneous fracture treatment.

# Week 5

## Surgery CPT: Respiratory & Cardiovascular

Phase 2 — Surgery Deep Dive

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Respiratory: bronchoscopy codes, thoracoscopy (VATS)	
Tuesday	Tracheostomy, laryngoscopy, sinus surgery overview	
Wednesday	Cardiovascular: pacemaker codes, single vs dual chamber	
Thursday	CABG: venous vs arterial grafts, number of grafts	
Friday	Cardiac catheterization: right, left, combined codes	
Saturday	Vascular surgery: AAA repair (open vs endovascular)	
Sunday	Practice: 15 cardiovascular and respiratory questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: CABG codes — venous grafts (33510–33516), arterial grafts (33533–33536).

# Week 6

## Surgery CPT: Digestive & Genitourinary

Phase 2 — Surgery Deep Dive

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Endoscopy: colonoscopy codes — diagnostic vs therapeutic	
Tuesday	Cholecystectomy, appendectomy: open vs laparoscopic	
Wednesday	Hernia repair codes: inguinal, umbilical, incisional	
Thursday	Whipple procedure, colectomy overview	
Friday	Urology: cystoscopy, nephrectomy, prostatectomy codes	
Saturday	OB/GYN: hysterectomy codes — approach and uterine weight	
Sunday	Practice: 15 digestive and GU questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: Colonoscopy code selection depends on the removal technique, not just that a polyp was removed.

# Week 7

## Surgery CPT: Nervous System & Global Package

Phase 2 — Surgery Deep Dive

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Nervous system: laminectomy vs laminotomy, discectomy	
Tuesday	Spinal cord stimulator implantation codes	
Wednesday	Craniotomy overview, peripheral nerve surgery	
Thursday	Global surgical package: what is included and excluded	
Friday	Modifiers for surgery: 22, 50, 51, 52, 58, 59, 62, 78, 79	
Saturday	NCCI edits: bundling, unbundling, when to use modifier 59	
Sunday	Surgery CPT comprehensive review — 20 mixed questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: The global surgical package — know exactly what is included vs. separately reportable.

# Week 8

## Evaluation & Management Coding

Phase 3 — E&M; +  
ICD-10-CM

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	2021 AMA E&M; guidelines: MDM vs time — office visits	
Tuesday	New vs established patient: 99202–99215 level selection	
Wednesday	MDM table: number/complexity of problems, data, risk	
Thursday	Initial hospital care (99221–99223), subsequent (99231–99233)	
Friday	Critical care: 99291–99292, time thresholds	
Saturday	Prolonged services: 99417, when it applies	
Sunday	E&M; practice: 20 questions — level selection scenarios	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: 2021 E&M; — you choose EITHER MDM OR total time. Pick whichever supports the higher level.

# Week 9

## ICD-10-CM Guidelines

Phase 3 — E&M; +  
ICD-10-CM

	Day	Today's Study Task	Done
	Monday	Sequencing rules: principal diagnosis, first-listed diagnosis	
	Tuesday	Outpatient vs inpatient coding guidelines — key differences	
	Wednesday	Combination codes: diabetes, hypertension, CKD	
	Thursday	Injury coding: 7th characters A/D/S, fracture sequencing	
	Friday	Sepsis coding: systemic infection first, organ dysfunction	
	Saturday	Neoplasm coding: primary, secondary, sequencing rules	
	Sunday	ICD-10-CM practice: 20 coding scenario questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: Outpatient rule — never code "possible" or "probable" diagnoses. Code signs and symptoms.

# Week 10

## Anesthesia + Radiology + Pathology

Phase 4 — Remaining Sections

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Anesthesia: base units + time units + conversion factor	
Tuesday	ASA physical status modifiers P1–P6	
Wednesday	Qualifying circumstances: emergency, extreme age, hypnosis	
Thursday	Radiology: professional component (26), technical component (TC)	
Friday	CT, MRI codes: with/without contrast — documentation rules	
Saturday	Pathology: surgical pathology levels I–VI, lab panels	
Sunday	Practice: 15 anesthesia, radiology, pathology questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: Anesthesia time = total minutes divided by 15. Always round up for partial units.

# Week 11

## HCPCS Level II + Medicine + Reimbursement

Phase 4 — Remaining Sections

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	HCPCS Level II: purpose, structure, drug billing units	
Tuesday	Medicine section: immunizations — product + administration codes	
Wednesday	Infusion codes: 96365–96368, first hour vs additional	
Thursday	RBRVS: work RVU, practice expense RVU, malpractice RVU	
Friday	Medicare participation, assignment, ABN for non-covered services	
Saturday	Compliance: False Claims Act, Qui Tam, OIG Work Plan	
Sunday	Practice: 15 HCPCS, medicine, reimbursement questions	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: HCPCS drug codes — always check the per-unit dose in the code descriptor.

# Week 12

## Mock Exam 1 + Weak Area Review

Phase 5 — Mock Exams  
+ Review

	Day	Today's Study Task	Done
	Monday	Take full 100-question timed mock exam at <a href="https://clearcpc.com/mock-exam">ClearCPC.com/mock-exam</a>	
	Tuesday	Review domain score report — identify red domains	
	Wednesday	Deep review: re-read CPT guidelines for lowest-scoring domain	
	Thursday	Deep review: re-read ICD-10-CM guidelines for weak areas	
	Friday	Re-attempt 25 wrong answers without looking at answers first	
	Saturday	Review codebook tabs/highlights — organise for exam day	
	Sunday	Rest day — light review only, no new topics	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: After mock exam 1, spend the most time on your two lowest-scoring domains.

# Week 13

## Mock Exam 2 + Exam Day Preparation

Phase 5 — Mock Exams  
+ Review

Day	Today's Study Task	Done
Monday	Take second full 100-question mock exam — aim to improve score	
Tuesday	Review ALL wrong answers with full explanations	
Wednesday	Final review: Surgery CPT high-yield rules and exceptions	
Thursday	Final review: E&M; level selection, MDM table from memory	
Friday	Organise CPT and ICD-10-CM books — add flags and tabs	
Saturday	Exam day strategy: time management (2.4 min per question)	
Sunday	Rest before exam — review notes only, no new material	

**Notes / Topics to Revisit:**

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■ Tip: On exam day — if unsure, eliminate two wrong answers first, then choose between the remaining two.

# You're Ready.

Good luck on your CPC exam. You have prepared well.

## Pre-Exam Checklist

Completed all 13 weeks of the study plan
Taken at least 2 full mock exams at ClearCPC.com
Reviewed all wrong answers with explanations
Tabbed and flagged CPT codebook for fast navigation
Tabbed and flagged ICD-10-CM codebook
Know the global surgical package rules cold
Memorised E&M; MDM table — 4 levels, 3 elements
Comfortable with modifier 25, 57, 58, 59, 50, 51
Know ICD-10-CM sequencing rules for sepsis, diabetes, CKD
Ready for exam day — good night's sleep planned

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