

PROGRAM APPROVAL APPLICATION
NEW or SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE or LOCALLY APPROVED

Fill In Form

Interventional Radiology Coding

Proposed Program Title

Spring 2017

Projected Program Start Date

East Los Angeles College

College

Los Angeles Community College District

District

Contact Information

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Voting Member

Dean, Workforce Education

Title

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Goal(s) of Program (Check all that apply):

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Transfer

Other

Type of Program (Check all that apply):

Certificate of Achievement 12-17 (or 17-27 quarter) units

Certificate of Achievement 18+ semester (or 27+ quarter) units

Associate of Science Degree

Associate of Arts Degree

Reason for Approval Request (Check One):

New Program

Substantial Change

Locally Approved

Program Information

1223.00

Recommended [Taxonomy of Program \(TOP\) Code](#)

Units for Major-Degree

Total Units for Degree

34

Required Units-Certificate

Written Form

1. Insert the description of the program as it will appear in the catalog. (See PCAH pp. 142 and 170)

The Interventional Radiology Coding certificate prepares individuals seeking to work as coders for a radiology department or other healthcare setting where procedures are performed on the gastrointestinal, genitourinary, biliary, cardiovascular, and other body systems. Upon completion of the Coding Specialist courses, students complete one additional course to learn how to abstract and analyze radiologic documentation to become proficient in radiologic procedure coding specifically related to non-vascular interventional radiology.

2. Provide a brief rationale for the program.

The Coding Network identifies Interventional Radiology Coders as world-class experts' within the entire spectrum of subspecialties for interventional radiology, including Neurointerventional, Endovascular Surgery, Peripheral Vascular Surgery, Angiointerventional, Gynecologic Interventional and Nephrointerventional Radiology Coding.

Radiology coders require specialized training in addition to the traditional coding program curriculum. According to the Coding Network's Division of Interventional Radiology Coding (<http://www.codingnetwork.com/medical-coding/physician-coding-by-specialty/interventional-radiology-coding/>), few Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) and Certified Procedural Coders (CPC) have the interventional radiology experience, training, and management resources. Because of the additional specialized training, professional certification, and lack of schools offering the course, there is a scarcity of qualified interventional radiology coders. Interventional radiology coding, particularly neuro-angio procedures, is among the most complex and challenging coding ever. Interventional radiology coders must possess the ability to read and understand radiology reports and have an in depth understanding of the body systems to accurately code the separately identifiable surgical and imaging services performed by the radiologist.

3. Summarize the Labor Market Information (LMI) and employment outlook (including citation for the source of the data) for students exiting the program.

According Cal Pass Plus Launch Board data (<https://www.calpassplus.org/LaunchBoard/Home.aspx>), in 2009 there were 4,595 Medical Records/Health Information Technician professionals in the HIM field. Data from 2014 showed an increase to 5,196 positions adding an additional 601 positions in the Los Angeles County region. In the Orange County region, a total of 1,409 professionals were listed increasing 110 positions in the area to 1,519. The difference between the LA County and Orange County regions signify a difference of 491 more positions in LA County.

**Graduate Data from Cal Pass Plus Launch Board
of Medical Records and Health Information Technicians**

County	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Total
Los Angeles	5	8	15	10	20	58
Orange	8	11	18	24	11	72
ELAC	11	13	18	13	24	79

Numbers for ELAC were provided by its Office of Institutional Effectiveness (OIE) noting a greater number of graduates from the HIT Associate degree program. Even with these numbers, there remains a great need to support the community healthcare organizations by offering more programs and opportunities in the field of health information management.

The "Healthcare Sector Profile" June 2015, indicated the labor market does not adequately convey the rapid evolution of HIT jobs. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics collects data on one HIT occupation, Medical Records and Health Information Technicians, which includes 60 percent of health information jobs ranging from low skill medical clerks to Medical Record Coders and Health Information Technicians with postsecondary education and credentials. However, the American College of Radiology (ACR) (www.acr.org) expects an 8% annual growth in interventional radiology and other high-tech services. The consequences of this growth will include an exacerbation of the current shortage of skilled interventional radiology coders. At many hospitals, the shortage of talented interventional radiology coders means that the interventional radiology coding is frequently performed by diagnostic medical record coders or a radiology technician who does not fully understand interventional radiology. Skilled interventional radiology coders are scarce and difficult to find.

According to the Medical Coding Health Care Salary Survey of 2013 by the American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC), interventional radiology is one of the top wage earning specialties. Due to the overwhelming need for experts in the Interventional Radiology Cardiovascular specialty, the AAPC now offers the CIRCC® (Certified Interventional Radiology Cardiovascular Coder) credential. Since interventional radiology coding and charging error rates are known to be high for this radiology subspecialty, the CIRCC® credential helps validate this additional level of education, knowledge and expertise required by the individuals who work in the complex and specialized areas of interventional radiology and cardiovascular coding and charging. Individuals seeking the CIRCC credential must have either a CPC or CCS to take the exam. In addition to AAPC, the Radiology Coding Certification Board (RCCB), with over 900 members certifies individuals who successfully meet its standards, policies and procedures, and pass the certification exam. To work as an interventional radiology coder, most settings require that individuals have at least one national certification to be hired.

Many of the jobs for interventional radiology coding are remote or telecommuting jobs. AAPC's 2013 (www.AAPC.org). Job listings for radiology coders as of 12/9/15 from companies such as Indeed.com (130), Simply Hired (80), Glassdoor (100), Career Builders (60), and Monsters (50), to name a few, indicate a great need for coders with this type of skill. Since this is a profession that may be completed remotely, the labor market needs are reflective of companies within and out of our regional area, which means individuals seeking employment as radiology coders may be employed throughout the country remotely. The national salary range for interventional radiology coders (IRCs) start at \$48,500 and above. Regionally, IRCs make approximately \$40.00/hour.

4. List similar programs at other colleges in the Los Angeles and Orange County Region which may be adversely impacted.

College	Program	Who You Contacted	Outcome of Contact
Cypress College	Health Information Technology AS Degree/Cert.	Rebecca Gomez, MS, MA, RHIA	Contacted program director twice – awaiting response. She received information regarding start of new programs via CHIA Educational call.
Glendale Community College	Health Information Technology Coding Certificate	Sonali M. Perera, MBA, MHM	Congratulations on bringing forward new programs, I am all for supporting and growing opportunities for our students. Yes, you have our utmost support and we will refer students should they be seeking that information.
Saddleback College	Health Information Technology AS Degree/Cert.	Safiah Mamoon, MS, RHIT, CPC	I think that your certificates are great, and would support it. In fact, please let me know if you have more information so that I can share with my students.

5. List all courses required for program completion, including core requirements, restricted electives and prerequisites.

Course	Course Number	Course Title	Units
CAOT	82	Introduction to Computers	3
HTHTEK	006	Anatomy & Physiology	6
HTHTEK	100	Introduction to Health Information Technology	3
HTHTEK	106	Hospital Law & Ethics	2
HTHTEK	108	Introduction to Pharmacology	1
HTHTEK	133	Medical Terminology	3
HTHTEK	134	Introduction to Pathology	3
HTHTEK	103	Introduction to Basic Coding	3
HTHTEK	110	Ambulatory Care Coding	3
HTHTEK	215	Inpatient Coding and Abstracting	3
HTHTEK	202	Directed Practice for Coding Specialists	1
HTHTEK	216	Diagnostic Radiology Coding	3

6. Include any other information you would like to share.

The Centers of Excellence Labor Market website located at: <http://www.coecc.net/health/index.asp?view=all> Supports information on the in-demand allied health occupations and coordinated a multi-regional research study of healthcare occupations in seven regions across California and regionally in Los Angeles County. Information on medical coders indicate that over the next 12 months, employers in the subsectors will need to fill 2,148 opening created by new job growth and replacement needs, especially in specialty areas.

- Few certified coders have the interventional radiology coding experience, training, and management resources possessed according to the Coding Network's Division of Interventional Radiology Coding.
- Interventional Radiology Coding, particularly neuro-angio procedures, presents a unique set of challenges with different families and levels of vessels, transcatheter and endovascular procedures, and intraoperative radiography.

Results from an Interest Survey forwarded to ELAC alumni, active students, faculty, and other HIM professionals interest in the new certificate program indicated 43% of 138 surveyed were interested in pursuing this certificate to enhance their professional growth. The program curriculum has been cross walked and mapped to the American Association of Procedural Coders (AAPC) Certified Interventional Radiology Cardiovascular Coder credential and the Radiology Coding Certification Boards certification domains to ensure students receive the appropriate knowledge content to sit for either exam.