



10 RHIA Practice Questions (With Answer Breakdowns)

*Test your knowledge and learn how to approach RHIA exam
questions the right way*

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Before You Start...

Many RHIA students rely heavily on practice questions.

But here is the truth:

Practice questions are only effective if you know how to use them correctly.

If you are just answering questions and checking your score, you may not actually be improving.

This guide will show you how to turn practice questions into a powerful study tool.

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Question 1

The main difference between concurrent and retrospective coding is:

- a. the credentials of the coder*
- b. what classification system is used*
- c. when the coding is done*
- d. the involvement of the physician*

Correct Answer: when the coding is done

EXPLANATION:

The key difference between concurrent and retrospective coding is timing...



Question 2

Parker has type 1 diabetes with hypertension that is currently controlled with medication. Parker was admitted through the ED for an emergency appendectomy. Following surgery, the patient developed an infection at the wound site that was treated with antibiotics. Parker's principal diagnosis is the

- a. comorbidity of type 1 diabetes*
- b. comorbidity of the wound infection*
- c. complications of hypertension*
- d. acute appendicitis*



CORRECT ANSWER: D. ACUTE APPENDICITIS

Explanation:

The principal diagnosis is defined as:

The condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for the patient's admission to the hospital.

In this scenario:

- The patient was admitted through the ED for an emergency appendectomy***
- This means acute appendicitis is the reason for admission***



Question 3

If a patient is readmitted to a facility after a recent admission, Joint Commission allows the facility to use the existing history and physical from the first admission if it is for a related condition and was completed within _____ of the second admission and if an interval note updating any changes to the patient's condition has been documented.

- a. 72 hours*
- b. 7 days*
- c. 30 days*
- d. 48 hours*



CORRECT ANSWER: C. 30 DAYS

Explanation:

***According to Joint Commission standards:
A previously completed History and Physical (H&P)
may be reused if:***

- ***It was completed within 30 days prior to the current admission***
- ***The admission is for a related condition***
- ***An interval note is documented to update any changes in the patient's condition***

This policy helps:

- ***Reduce unnecessary duplication***
- ***Maintain continuity of care***
- ***Ensure documentation remains accurate and current***



Question 4

This report should be written or dictated immediately after the procedure is done and filed in the patient's health record as soon as possible:

- a. operative report*
- b. pathology report*
- c. discharge report*
- d. consultation report*

Correct Answer: a. operative report



EXPLANATION:

AN OPERATIVE REPORT MUST BE WRITTEN OR DICTATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER A PROCEDURE BECAUSE:

- ***IT PROVIDES A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE SURGERY***
- ***IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR POSTOPERATIVE CARE AND CONTINUITY***
- ***IT SUPPORTS ACCURATE CODING AND BILLING***



Question 5

Which of the following clinicians would use the DSM-V system to assist with establishing a diagnosis?

- a. Practicing psychiatrists*
- b. Registered nurses*
- c. Physical therapists*
- d. Registered dietitians*

Correct Answer: a. Practicing psychiatrists



EXPLANATION:

THE DSM-5 (DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS) IS USED TO:

DIAGNOSE AND CLASSIFY MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS

IT IS PRIMARILY USED BY:

- ***PSYCHIATRISTS***
- ***PSYCHOLOGISTS***
- ***LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS***



Question 6

In data quality management the purpose for which data are collected is:

- a. Collection*
- b. Application*
- c. Analysis*
- d. Warehousing*

Correct Answer: b. Application



EXPLANATION:

IN DATA QUALITY MANAGEMENT, THE TERM APPLICATION REFERS TO:

THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH DATA ARE COLLECTED

THIS MEANS:

- ***WHY THE DATA IS BEING GATHERED***
- ***HOW IT WILL BE USED (E.G., PATIENT CARE, BILLING, RESEARCH)***



Question 7

The SOAP format is an example of a structured progress note commonly used with the _____ health record.

- a. Problem-oriented*
- b. Integrated system*
- c. Source-oriented*
- d. Patient-oriented*

Correct Answer: a. Problem-oriented



EXPLANATION:

THE SOAP FORMAT STANDS FOR:

- ***SUBJECTIVE***
- ***OBJECTIVE***
- ***ASSESSMENT***
- ***PLAN***

THIS FORMAT IS USED IN A PROBLEM-ORIENTED HEALTH RECORD (POHR) BECAUSE:

IT ORGANIZES DOCUMENTATION AROUND SPECIFIC PATIENT PROBLEMS



Question 8

The information collected for your registry includes patient demographic information, diagnosis codes, functional status, and histocompatibility. This type of registry is a

- a. trauma registry*
- b. diabetes registry*
- c. transplant registry*
- d. birth defects registry*

Correct Answer: c. transplant registry



EXPLANATION:

A TRANSPLANT REGISTRY COLLECTS DATA RELATED TO:

- ***PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS***
- ***DIAGNOSIS CODES***
- ***FUNCTIONAL STATUS***
- ***HISTOCOMPATIBILITY (KEY FOR ORGAN MATCHING)***
-

HISTOCOMPATIBILITY IS A MAJOR CLUE — IT REFERS TO TISSUE MATCHING FOR TRANSPLANTS



Question 9

A cancer program is surveyed for approval by the

- a. Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations*
- b. State Department of Health*
- c. The American Cancer Society*
- d. Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons*

Correct Answer: d. Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons



EXPLANATION:

CANCER PROGRAMS ARE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

THE COMMISSION ON CANCER (COC), WHICH IS PART OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THEIR ROLE INCLUDES:

- ***SETTING STANDARDS FOR CANCER CARE***
- ***MONITORING QUALITY OF CANCER PROGRAMS***
- ***ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH TREATMENT GUIDELINES***



Question 10

Which of the following statements is true of data quality management?

- a. It affects the collection, application, warehousing, and analysis of data to improve information quality.*
- b. It includes system design, screen design, and report and form design*
- c. It analyzes and interprets disease and procedure classifications and terminologies.*
- d. It involves appropriately responding to requests for information based on laws and policy.*

Correct Answer: a. It affects the collection, application, warehousing, and analysis of data to improve information quality.



EXPLANATION:

DATA QUALITY MANAGEMENT (DQM) ENSURES THAT DATA IS:

***ACCURATE, COMPLETE, AND RELIABLE
ACROSS ITS ENTIRE LIFECYCLE***

IT INVOLVES ALL STAGES:

- ***COLLECTION → HOW DATA IS GATHERED***
- ***APPLICATION → WHY DATA IS USED***
- ***WAREHOUSING → HOW DATA IS STORED***
- ***ANALYSIS → HOW DATA IS INTERPRETED***



What You Should Notice

- *RHIA questions test understanding, not memorization*
- *Many answers are intentionally similar*
- *You must understand why answers are correct*



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