



News Release

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### **Columbus Community Hospital Employees Earn Coding Certifications**

For Immediate Release

**(COLUMBUS, Neb.)** – Two Columbus Community Hospital (CCH) employees recently earned coding certifications.

Craig Divis, RHIT, CCS, a chart analyst with CCH’s Health Information Management Department, earned his certified coding specialist (CCS) certification and Sarah Sorenson, with CCH’s Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic, earned her certified coding associate (CCA) certification.

A CCS certification like Divis’ shows that the person is skilled in classifying medical data from patient records, generally in a hospital setting.

Divis earned his CCS certification through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) after participating in Central Community College-Hastings’ online Health Information Management Systems (HIMS) program. As part of this program, Divis studied the legal aspects of a medical chart, pharmacology, anatomy and physiology, as well took many courses on coding.

“While attending classes through Central Community College, my instructor encouraged us to sit for the certification exam and if we would pass, we would receive an automatic A for the course, so it was a win-win situation,” Divis said.

To earn his CCS certification, Divis then took – and passed –the four-hour CCS exam which has 97 multiple choice questions and eight coding scenarios.

“The certified coding specialist (CCS) exam is a difficult test and passing the exam and obtaining the certification demonstrates Craig’s coding proficiency,” said Shari Stahl, director of Health Information Management. “Craig has a great desire to learn, and becoming a certified coding specialist is proof of that.”

Stahl added that Divis’ certification and the knowledge he gained through the exam process, will benefit CCH’s Health Information Management Department “by improving the quality of medical coding, minimizing errors and increasing efficiency.”

Similarly, Sorenson’s recent CCA certification is expected to lead to increased efficiency in the Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic.



A CCA credential, like Sorenson's, shows that the individual has demonstrated coding competencies across all settings, including both hospitals and physician practices.

Sorenson achieved her certification after completing a two-year program which focuses on medical terminology, the structure and function of the body, billing and reimbursement and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance and regulations. She then passed the state's CCA exam.

"Having obtained my CCA certification, I hope to be able to transition into an entry level coding position alongside our current coder/biller," Sorenson said. "As our office continues to grow, I hope to be able to utilize my skills with her and help alleviate some of her workload."

Nancy Rinkol, Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic practice manager, said that Sorenson will now be able to assist the clinic's coding/billing specialist with coding patient visits and procedures.

"She will provide coverage during vacations and time-off to ensure claims are submitted in a timely manner," she said. "This will also allow my current coding/billing specialist additional time to work patient accounts and follow-up on claims."

For more information on how CCH supports the continuing education of its employees through certification programs, visit [www.columbushosp.org](http://www.columbushosp.org).

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