REGISTERED HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN (RHIT) CERTIFICATION

WHO ISSUES THE CERTIFICATION?

The American Healthcare Information Management Association (AHIMA).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

The RHIT assures the competency of professionals practicing health informatics and information management (HIM). HIM areas include quality of medical/health records, using computer applications and coding to improve patient care, controlling costs, and improving reimbursement.

WHAT IS THE CAREER LEVEL OF THE CERTIFICATION AND WHO IS IT GEARED TO?

The RHIT is a mid-level certification geared to health care information management professionals.

WHAT ARE THE EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE PREREQUISITES FOR THE CERTIFICATION?

To obtain the RHIT, an individual must have at least an associate's degree from a CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management) accredited program, or be a graduate from a foreign HIM program approved by an association with whom AHIMA has reciprocity.

WHAT IS THE COST AND STRUCTURE OF THE CERTIFICATION'S EXAM(S)?

The RHIT exam is a mix of multiple choice and multiple answer questions and scenarios. The exam costs $229 for AHIMA members, or $299 for non-members.

WHAT IS THE GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF THE CERTIFICATION?

National.

IS THE CERTIFICATION ACCREDITED?

Yes, the RHIT is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) against the *NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*.

HOW LONG IS THE CERTIFICATION VALID?

It is valid for two years.

IS THERE A PROCESS FOR RENEWING THE CERTIFICATION, OR RECERTIFICATION?

Yes, by submitting proof every two years of obtaining 20 continuing education requirements (or more if also holding and renewing other AHIMA certifications).

CAN THE CERTIFICATION BE REVOKED?

Yes. Consistent with best practices for certification programs, revocations can occur when a certified professional fails to meet the recertification requirement. Revocations can also occur for professional ethics violations, though that is rare.

IS THE CERTIFICATION LINKED TO LICENSURE?

No.

HOW DOES THE CERTIFICATION RELATE TO OTHER AHIMA CERTIFICATIONS OR THOSE OF OTHER CERTIFICATION BODIES?

The RHIT is a part of a series of eight AHIMA certifications, and most closely relates to the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification, as holders of the RHIT certification with a bachelor's degree can qualify to take the RHIA examination. The other AHIMA certifications in the series include: Certified Coding Associate (CCA), Certified Coding Specialist (CCS), Certified Coding Specialist – Physician-Based (CCS-P), Certified Health Data Analyst (CHDA), Certified Health Privacy and Security (CHPS), and Certified Documentation Improvement Practitioner (CDIP).

WHAT ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS OR INDUSTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE OR USE THE CERTIFICATION?

Health care providers, including hospitals, office-based physician practices, nursing homes, home health agencies, mental health facilities, and public health agencies recognize or use the RHIT. In addition, any organization that uses patient data or health information, such as pharmaceutical companies, law and insurance firms, and health product vendors also use this certification.

ARE THERE ANY COMPANIES, CORPORATIONS, OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THEY PREFER OR REQUIRE THE CERTIFICATION?

The best public declarations can be found directly in job postings by employers in any job board nationwide. For example, a simple search for RHIT jobs in the United States on Indeed showed more than 3,000 jobs available that either explicitly require or prefer the AHIMA RHIT certification.

WHAT OCCUPATIONS USE THE CERTIFICATION?

The AHIMA "Career Map" shows dozens of HIM occupations that use the RHIT and other related AHIMA certifications, such as population health analyst, medical office administrator, coding manager, and informatics researcher.

DOES AHIMA OFFER TRAINING MATERIALS TO HELP INDIVIDUALS PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION EXAM?

No.