



## **A Frequently Asked Question in 2010!**

### **AIHC Healthcare Compliance Auditor Certification Versus NAMAS Auditor and AAPC Certification**

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**The most often asked question coming by Email and phone right now is about our Lead Auditor Compliance Certification Program! We offer this training via boot camp (classroom) and through distance learning. To learn more about how we delivery our training, certification exams, etc, [click on this link](#) to go to “Certification” and click on FAQs!**

#### **History**

The American Institute of Healthcare Compliance, a non-profit organization, offers the Certified Healthcare Auditor (CHA) program which was originally developed in 2001. Initially, this program was offered through The Society for Strategic Coders<sup>SM</sup>, the education division of Health Care Consulting Services, Inc. (HCCS established in 1983). It was decided by the CEO of HCCS that nationally recognized certifications in health care should be held by a non-profit organization where no one could personally profit from professional certification held by the executives and administrators graduating from these programs. As a result, the American Institute of Healthcare Compliance was “born”, January 1, 2008 to host the certification programs developed by HCCS.

Until February 28, 2010 American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) preapproved the Certified Healthcare Auditor (AKA as “CHA”), for 24 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). AAPC changed their vendor policy for 2010 which no longer permits organizations less than 10 years old from being approved for CEUs. AIHC has received preapproval for CEUs for all AIHC certification programs, including CHA (24 CEUs) through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) for 2010.

Our office receives phone calls daily asking how our auditing program and certification differs from the AAPC certification and training through NAMAS. Please note that the CHA program is for compliance officers, coders, physicians, nurses responsible for auditing compliance in a health care setting such as: SNF, Medical Center, Physician Office, Clinic, Clinical Lab, Hospice, DME, Government Auditor (i.e. Veterans Administration, military contractor).

Most often asked question – *How does the CHA training compare to the NAMAS course? What are the similarities and differences between the two?*  
**Answer? Difficult to compare- they are totally different programs!**

<b>Program Curriculum Information</b>	<b>AIHC CHA Program</b>	<b>NAMAS CPMA™ Program</b>
<b>Learning Format</b>	Boot Camp (classroom) <b>48</b> hours of instruction Distance Learning (remote) with instructor <b>93</b> hours	Classroom 2-day program, <b>15</b> hours of instruction
<b>When program was established</b>	2001	2007
<b>Text Books &amp; Learning Materials Included in Tuition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Math SparkChart</li> <li>o Managerial Skills BarChart</li> <li>o Internal Quality Auditing <i>by Denis Pronovost</i></li> <li>o The Internal Auditing Pocket Guide <i>by J.P. Russell</i></li> <li>o Monitoring &amp; Auditing Practices for Effective Compliance <i>by John E. Steiner, Jr. , JD</i></li> <li>o Current events reading assignments for each lesson (15 lesson assignments)</li> <li>o Homework for each lesson graded and discussed with student by instructor</li> <li>o On-line Module Exams</li> <li>o Practice Mock Certification Exam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Course manual developed by NAMAS is used during the workshop (name of book not provided)</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	Tuition: \$2,100 (before discounts) Exam Fee: included in distance learning tuition, (\$250 for boot camp participants) Membership Fee: Included in all tuition rates	Tuition: \$895 (before discounts) Exam Fee: \$300 student AAPC exam fee  Membership Fee: \$120 AAPC fee due prior to taking the AAPC CPMA exam

<b>Course Curriculum Comparison</b>			
<b>CHA/AIHC</b>		<b>CPMA/NAMAS</b>	
<b>Taken from AIHC Course Syllabus</b>	<b>Lessons: <i>learned through texts, reading, Internet research homework &amp; Module Exams</i></b>	<b>Taken from NAMAS web site information and request Curriculum Syllabus February 2010</b>	<b>Seminar Day, Time</b>
Process improvement through internal auditing	o Lesson 1	Compliance & Auditing – Documentation Basics, Anatomy of the Medical Chart, Types of Medical Chart Documentation	Day 1 8:15 – 10:15 am
RAC preparedness, rebuttal of RAC, Probe findings	o Lesson 1 o Lesson 13 o Lesson 14	Regulatory Control	Day 1 10:30 – 12:00 pm
Identity Theft Compliance – auditing Red Flag	o Lesson 1 o Lesson 2	Documentation Guidelines: CMS, 1995 & 1997 (E&M)	Day 1 1 :00 – 2 :30 pm
False Claims Act, FERA, HEAT – antifraud action	o Lesson 1	E&M Auditing Basics	Day 1 2:45 – 3:45 pm

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<b>CHA/AIHC</b>		<b>CPMA/NAMAS</b>	
<b>Taken from AIHC Course Syllabus Distance Learning 93 hours or Boot Camp/Classroom 48 hours</b>	<b>Lessons: learned through texts, reading assignment, Internet research homework &amp; Module Exams</b>	<b>Taken from NAMAS web site information and request Curriculum Syllabus February 2010 Seminar/Classroom 15 hours</b>	<b>Seminar Day, Time</b>
Documentation compliance – CMS, OIG	o Lesson 1	Inpatient, Emergency Room/ED Hospital Services & Anesthesia	Day 1 3:45 – 4:30 pm
Fundamentals of Business System Auditing – planning meetings, managing teams	o Lesson 2	Auditing Surgery & Operative Reports	Day 1 4:30 – 5:30 pm
Standards, Benchmarks, measuring improvement through internal auditing	o Lesson 3	Review	Day 2 8:00 – 9:30 am
Statistical Analysis of Audit Sample, Data Collection, math, formulas	o Lesson 4	Ophthalmology	Day 2 9:45 – 11:00 am
Statistics & Gap Analysis – conducting statistical analysis of data, managing time & making decisions based on data	o Lesson 5	Laboratory & Pathology	Day 2 11:00 – 12:00 pm
Delegating & Management Skills to Lead Audit Team – Lead Auditor Accountabilities	o Lesson 6	Medicine	Day 2 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Reviewing audit findings & Performing Statistical Analysis of audit findings – Comparative Analysis between baseline and monitoring audit results	o Lesson 7	CMS Incident-To Policy	Day 2 2:45 – 3:15 pm
Understanding the Medical Record, HIPAA, Patient Privacy, correction of errors, necessary documentation, confidentiality requirements of auditing	o Lesson 8	Interpretation of audit results; communication results to the physicians	Day 2 3:15 – 5:30 pm
Auditing Standards – qualifications of auditors, competency standards of various types of auditing, measuring quality through internal auditing, human resources, project management	o Lesson 9 o Lesson 10		
Acceptable standard in auditing, recommending processes, managing stress, implementation methods of large auditing programs	o Lesson 11		
Train, teach and be instrumental leaders in the organization to implement an audit team. Organizational behavior, effects of change on physicians, administration and staff	o Lesson 12		
Voluntary Compliance Monitoring & Auditing, Voluntary Disclosure Refunds, Self-Audits, RAT STATS, Corporate Integrity Agreements, Preparing for Independent Review Organization Engagement	o Lesson 13 o Lesson 14		
Conducting an Audit in the work place – instructor grades statistics used to report findings, graphic illustrations used to communicate data analysis and how the report is written	o Lesson 15		