

Revenue Cycle Certifications at a Glance

The vision for the South Carolina Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (SCHFMA) begins with “to continue to be the leading professional resource for individuals seeking excellence in the area of financial management...” Being a professional resource and instilling excellence includes offering education to our members and others in healthcare finance. With that education, certifications are offered to both members and non-members.

One of the available certifications is offered through the National HFMA organization. The Certified Revenue Cycle Representative (CRCR) consists of an online program and examination. The cost for the program is \$400. The online course can be completed in roughly 10 hours. A candidate has one year to successfully pass the examination. The exam can be retaken every 30 days, up to 12 times during the course of the year. Re-certification is required every two years to insure representatives remain up to date in their field. The cost for re-certification is \$100.

SCHFMA offers a second certification, the Certified Revenue Cycle Associate (CRCA.) The CRCA program includes a \$65 manual and \$110 examination in October. An education session is offered at the beginning of each program year, giving candidates an opportunity to hear presentations from industry experts on content covered in the manual. The manual includes review questions at the end of each chapter to use as a practice examination. Each candidate will require a different amount of study time. The CRCA exam consists of two parts, each requiring a passing score of 80% or above. Candidates are allowed to retake one or both parts of the exam once in November for an additional fee. Graduates of the program attend an awards banquet in January to celebrate their achievement.

Both certifications encourage Revenue Cycle staff to participate and earn credentials. Many hospital departments benefit from the knowledge gained through certification. Examples of departments who would benefit from either certification are: Patient Access, Patient Accounts, Health Information Management, Case Management, and Managed Care. Understanding the way one role fits into the larger picture further instills excellence. Obtaining certification helps to encourage continued education and demonstrates commitment to the Revenue Cycle while enhancing career growth opportunities.

The CRCA study guide continues to be a resource after certification has been obtained. Resources included in the guide pertain to situations encountered on a routine basis. Healthcare experts insured that chapters contain content specific to South Carolina’s hospital revenue cycle. Representatives from all over the United States study to take the CRCR, therefore the national exam cannot be specific to each state or regional requirements.

All are invited to participate in this year’s CRCA Education Session. Members and non-members are encouraged to take part in the free session to learn more about the CRCA program and certification. The schedule will be posted to the SCHFMA website in February 2016.

	CRCR	CRCA		CRCR	CRCA
Program Cost	\$400	\$65	Re-take Examination	Every 30 Days	Once
Study Guide	Online	CD	Re-take Exam Cost	N/A	\$55
Examination	Online	Onsite	Re-certification Cost	\$100	N/A
Exam Cost	N/A	\$110	Re-certification	Every 2 years	N/A