

AHCC Hospice Coding Professional of the Year award Summary

The Association of Home Care Coding & Compliance (AHCC) *Hospice Coding Professional of the Year* award is designed to recognize an individual who stands out among the best in the industry and represents the most outstanding attributes of a Hospice coding professional. This professional embodies AHCC's mission "to serve as the premier compliance and coding community for home care agencies, providing a medium for education, professional growth, advocacy, and networking," in contributions to their organization, local coding communities, the larger national Association, and the coding profession globally due to his or her initiatives and work ethic.

It is the highest honor bestowed by the Association.

The Hospice Coding Professional of the Year:

- Serves as a role model and mentor to peers
- Demonstrates leadership in activities that contribute to the enhancement of the hospice coding profession
- Has effected visible change or improvement due to his or her initiatives
- Has taken meaningful steps to achieve continuous professional development in diagnosis coding
- Has made a difference in his or her organization and in the broader hospice coding community/profession

Criteria Nominees for the annual *Hospice Coding Professional of the Year* award should have:

- An active AHCC membership
- Served at least three years as a hospice coding professional at the time of his or her nomination
- An active HCS-H certification
- An active position within a hospice coding department or serving the hospice coding profession

Attributes Additionally, nominees for the *Hospice Coding Professional of the Year* should:

- Adhere to the AHCC Code of Conduct by (for example)
 - Following the core ethical principles
 - Applying the core principles to daily activities
 - Having the ability to describe the purpose of core principles to colleagues
- Serve as a content matter expert by (for example)
 - Speaking at a local, state, or national event (AHCC, AHIMA, NAHC, etc.)

- Sharing his/her experience/expertise via AHCC or other publications such as AHCC Journal, AHCC blog, Home Health Line, Diagnosis Coding Pro, etc.
- Contributing to hospice coding-related books and/or online education
- Contribute to the advancement of the profession through volunteer efforts by (for example)
 - Serving on an AHCC board or committee
 - Serving on boards and committees related to hospice coding at one's own organization or at a state or local organization
- Support cross-disciplinary efforts to further understanding of hospice coding by (for example)
 - Seeking opportunities for advanced learning within coding, quality, and other related fields
 - Obtaining additional certifications
 - Educating and mentoring peers

Performance

Successful candidates for the *Hospice Coding Professional of the Year* award should also be able to:

- Demonstrate exemplary performance within their current role by (for example):
 - Demonstrating innovation and creativity in a challenging project or program
 - Exhibiting outstanding leadership/management skills (candidates need not be program managers to earn the award)
 - Fostering teamwork and collegial activities

Nomination considerations

The following questions are designed to assist the nominee and his/her colleagues in the submission process. The nominator will/should work in conjunction with the nominee to provide:

- Current job description
- Resume, LinkedIn link, detailed job history, or professional bio
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation (letters from coding colleagues, other departments, and the executive level)

— Supportive evidence of accomplishments (e.g., sample article, PowerPoint presentation, tip sheet, company newsletter, etc.)

Evaluation considerations

All nominations will be evaluated by the AHCC Awards Committee. We will consider the following questions:

- What makes this nominee stand out from their peers?
- Does this nominee exemplify the ethical standards of the Association?
- Does this nominee advocate for the hospice coding profession and AHCC?
- How has the nominee encouraged others to progress?
- What has the nominee done to promote or improve standards in their field?
- Has the nominee participated in a leadership capacity? Or, in what ways has the nominee demonstrated leadership potential as it relates to the hospice coding profession?
- What challenges has the nominee faced? How has he/she overcome them?
- Is the nominee involved with any related professional associations? If so, in what capacity?
- How does the nominee foster teamwork and good staff relations? How does the nominee support other professionals and implement the team concept in meeting goals?
- Is the nominee innovative and/or does the nominee participate in innovative cross departmental diagnosis coding improvement initiatives/programs?