

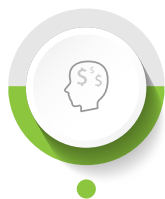
## Automated Coding Assessments

Central Learning Improves Coding Accuracy and Supplements External Audits at Hospitals, Health Systems and Physician Practices

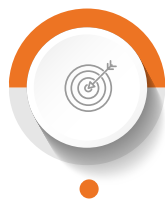
Central Learning measures true coder accuracy without the time, preparation, expense or management headaches associated with manual coding audits. Assess coders with either your patient records or with Central Learning pre-packaged records to get immediate comprehensive skill gap reports.



Instantly drill down to the top 5 or bottom 5 cases by code



Automatically analyze, track and trend coder skill gaps with simple dashboards, graphs and charts



Expose hidden coding denial dangers by service line, DRG or care location



Score, analyze and compare results to determine educational needs at the chapter, category or code level



Continually monitor coding staff in between routine external audits and focus training on code specificity at each facility

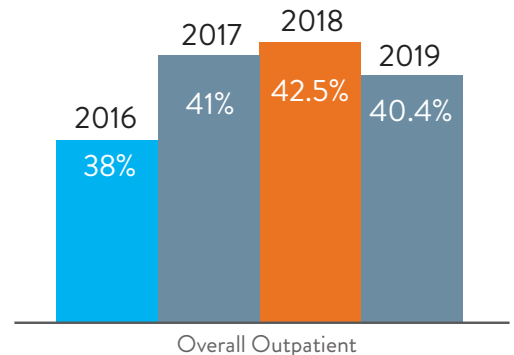
“My favorite thing about the application is the layout of the chart. I could easily go to different areas in the chart, such as the H&P and the procedure note as they are clearly labeled.”  
The complexity is a realistic mix of cases since coders never know what they will get.”

# 4th Annual National Coding Contest Results

## Phase 1 - Outpatient Coding

With the surge in outpatient payments, hospital revenue integrity teams are experiencing a shift in outpatient reimbursement from fee for service to alternative payment models and quality-based outcomes. Coding errors, documentation gaps and accounts not billed due to claim denials are typically much higher on the outpatient side due to sheer volume. This year's contest focused on outpatient coding performance to address some of these challenges, with the goal of helping HIM, coding and revenue cycle teams pinpoint opportunities for improvement.

Average Accuracy Scores



## Scores

**40.39%**

Average outpatient accuracy compared to 42.5% in 2018

**60.5%**

Average PDX compared to 67.8% in 2018

**38.6%**

Average SDX compared to 38.8% in 2018

## What Did We Learn?

The increase in PDX errors this year indicates lack of detail and specificity in assigning primary diagnosis codes. Ensuring coders have access to complete documentation and perform a detailed review is essential to correct PDX assignment. Secondary diagnosis coding errors are also on the rise in 2019. We believe this trend is caused by coders' failure to apply correct coding guidelines for secondary diagnoses code assignment. For example, external cause codes for injuries were missing in many cases. Coders are responsible to perform a detailed review of all documentation to capture all PDX codes.

## Coders by Certification

**80.95%** AHIMA Certified, AAPC Certified, or both

THE  
POWER  
OF

Four years of coding contests have resulted in over 10,000 real medical record cases using Central Learning, a real-time, online coder assessment tool for HIM. Coders chose de-identified cases based on their areas of coding specialty. Once coded, participants' cases were electronically graded against Central Learning's standardized answer keys to remove any bias or human intervention. Based on past questions regarding the integrity of data collection and results, Pena4 took extra steps this year to ensure study accuracy. Time was taken to vet and validate a controlled group of coders via preassessment and certification verification.

## Years of Experience

