

# CPC EXAM STRATEGY GUIDE

MIRASHANNELL Medical Coding Academy

---

## ANESTHESIA STRATEGY

### What to Focus On

- Type of anesthesia performed
  - ASA physical status modifiers
  - Time reporting
  - Surgical procedure connection
  - Qualifying circumstances
  - Monitored anesthesia care (MAC)
- 

### CPC Exam Strategy Tips

- ✓ Identify the surgical procedure first
  - ✓ Watch for anesthesia time wording
  - ✓ Look for physical status modifiers (P1–P6)
  - ✓ Pay attention to emergency conditions
  - ✓ Differentiate local vs regional vs general anesthesia
- 

### Common CPC Clues

- “Conscious sedation”
  - “Monitored anesthesia care”
  - “Anesthesiologist”
  - “CRNA”
  - “Emergency surgery”
  - “Postoperative pain management”
- 

### Avoid These Mistakes

- ✗ Coding surgeon's local anesthesia separately
  - ✗ Missing qualifying circumstances
  - ✗ Forgetting time calculations
  - ✗ Confusing moderate sedation with anesthesia services
- 

## **E/M STRATEGY**

### **What to Focus On**

- Medical decision making (MDM)
  - Patient status
  - Complexity level
  - Risk level
  - Time-based services
  - Documentation clues
- 

### **CPC Exam Strategy Tips**

- ✓ Determine if patient is NEW or ESTABLISHED first
  - ✓ Focus heavily on MDM wording
  - ✓ Watch for chronic vs acute terminology
  - ✓ Learn risk-level terminology
  - ✓ Identify stable vs worsening conditions
- 

### **Common CPC Clues**

- “Stable chronic illness”
  - “Acute uncomplicated”
  - “Moderate risk”
  - “Prescription management”
  - “Comprehensive exam”
  - “Follow-up visit”
- 

### **Avoid These Mistakes**

- ✗ Over-focusing on history/exam only
  - ✗ Ignoring medical decision-making complexity
  - ✗ Missing time documentation clues
  - ✗ Confusing consultation vs office visits
- 

# **SURGERY STRATEGY GUIDE**

## **SECTION BREAKDOWN**

---

# **INTEGUMENTARY SYSTEM STRATEGY**

## **Focus Areas**

- Lesion size
  - Margins
  - Benign vs malignant
  - Simple/intermediate/complex repairs
  - Debridement depth
- 

## **CPC Clues**

- “Excision”
  - “Adjacent tissue transfer”
  - “Layered closure”
  - “Full thickness”
  - “Skin graft”
- 

## **Strategy Tips**

- ✓ Highlight lesion measurements
- ✓ Watch for repair coding separately
- ✓ Learn anatomy terminology
- ✓ Focus on wound depth wording

---

# MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM STRATEGY

## Focus Areas

- Fracture treatment
- Open vs closed
- Manipulation
- Arthroscopy
- Joint procedures

---

## CPC Clues

- “Internal fixation”
- “Reduction”
- “Manipulation”
- “Arthrodesis”
- “Debridement”

---

## Strategy Tips

- ✓ Identify anatomical location first
- ✓ Watch open vs closed fracture wording
- ✓ Focus on surgical approach
- ✓ Learn bone/joint terminology

---

# RESPIRATORY SYSTEM STRATEGY

## Focus Areas

- Bronchoscopy
- Thoracentesis
- Lung procedures

- Endoscopy wording
- 

## **CPC Clues**

- “Bronchoscopy”
  - “Thoracoscopy”
  - “Ventilation”
  - “Biopsy”
  - “Resection”
- 

## **Strategy Tips**

- ✓ Watch scope procedures carefully
  - ✓ Learn respiratory anatomy
  - ✓ Identify diagnostic vs surgical intent
- 

# **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM STRATEGY**

## **Focus Areas**

- Catheterization
  - Stents
  - CABG
  - Pacemakers
  - Vein/artery procedures
- 

## **CPC Clues**

- “Angioplasty”
- “Catheter placement”
- “Coronary artery”
- “Bypass graft”
- “Selective catheterization”

---

## Strategy Tips

- ✓ Follow vessel pathways carefully
- ✓ Understand artery hierarchy
- ✓ Learn cardiac anatomy thoroughly
- ✓ Watch selective vs nonselective wording

---

# DIGESTIVE SYSTEM STRATEGY

## Focus Areas

- Endoscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Hernia repair
- GI procedures

---

## CPC Clues

- “Polypectomy”
- “Biopsy”
- “Upper GI”
- “Laparoscopic”
- “Repair”

---

## Strategy Tips

- ✓ Learn digestive anatomy flow
- ✓ Watch scope insertion sites
- ✓ Focus on diagnostic vs therapeutic procedures

---

# URINARY SYSTEM STRATEGY

## Focus Areas

- Cystoscopy
  - Lithotripsy
  - Catheter procedures
  - Kidney/bladder surgery
- 

## CPC Clues

- “Ureter”
  - “Nephrostomy”
  - “Lithotripsy”
  - “Stent”
  - “Bladder”
- 

## Strategy Tips

- ✓ Learn urinary anatomy carefully
  - ✓ Identify stone-treatment methods
  - ✓ Watch scope terminology
- 

# MALE GENITAL SYSTEM STRATEGY

## Focus Areas

- Vasectomy
  - Circumcision
  - Prostate procedures
- 

## CPC Clues

- “Orchiopexy”
- “Prostatectomy”
- “Testicular”

- “Epididymis”
- 

## Strategy Tips

- ✓ Focus on reproductive anatomy
  - ✓ Watch excision vs repair wording
- 

# FEMALE GENITAL SYSTEM STRATEGY

## Focus Areas

- Hysterectomy
  - Laparoscopy
  - Delivery procedures
  - Colposcopy
- 

## CPC Clues

- “Cesarean”
  - “Endometrial”
  - “Laparoscopic”
  - “Colposcopy”
- 

## Strategy Tips

- ✓ Learn OB terminology
  - ✓ Differentiate delivery package components
  - ✓ Watch surgical approach wording
- 

# NERVOUS SYSTEM STRATEGY

## **Focus Areas**

- Spine procedures
  - Neurostimulators
  - Craniotomy
  - Nerve repair
- 

## **CPC Clues**

- “Laminectomy”
  - “Neuroplasty”
  - “Craniotomy”
  - “Decompression”
- 

## **Strategy Tips**

- ✓ Focus on spinal levels
  - ✓ Learn nervous system anatomy
  - ✓ Watch decompression terminology carefully
- 

# **RADIOLOGY STRATEGY**

## **What to Focus On**

- Number of views
  - Contrast usage
  - Interpretation/report
  - Guidance procedures
- 

## **CPC Exam Strategy Tips**

- ✓ Highlight imaging view counts
- ✓ Watch “with contrast” vs “without contrast”

- ✓ Learn radiology terminology
  - ✓ Focus on supervision and interpretation wording
- 

## **Common CPC Clues**

- “Three views”
  - “Fluoroscopy”
  - “CT”
  - “MRI”
  - “Guidance”
- 

# **PATHOLOGY & LAB STRATEGY**

## **What to Focus On**

- Panels
  - Quantitative vs qualitative
  - Specimen source
  - Organism testing
- 

## **CPC Exam Strategy Tips**

- ✓ Watch panel wording carefully
  - ✓ Learn lab terminology
  - ✓ Focus on screening vs diagnostic testing
  - ✓ Watch chemistry vs pathology distinctions
- 

## **Common CPC Clues**

- “Culture”
- “Assay”
- “Panel”
- “Microscopic”
- “Sensitivity”

---

# MEDICINE STRATEGY

## What to Focus On

- Infusions/injections
- Therapy services
- Immunizations
- Dialysis
- Cardiology testing

---

## CPC Exam Strategy Tips

- ✓ Watch administration routes carefully
- ✓ Learn infusion hierarchy
- ✓ Focus on timing rules
- ✓ Identify therapeutic vs diagnostic services

---

## Common CPC Clues

- “Infusion”
- “Hydration”
- “Therapeutic”
- “Immunization”
- “Dialysis”

---

# MIRASHANNELL CPC EXAM SUCCESS STRATEGY

**Focus Less on Memorization.**

**Focus More on:**

- ✓ understanding terminology
  - ✓ recognizing patterns
  - ✓ identifying keywords
  - ✓ learning anatomy
  - ✓ navigating manuals efficiently
  - ✓ understanding procedure intent
- 

## **GOLDEN CPC EXAM RULE**

**The CPC exam often hides the answer inside:**

- procedural wording
- anatomical terminology
- keywords
- coding intent
- guideline clues

The students who learn how to recognize those patterns usually perform stronger under timed exam pressure.