

Q. Please could you explain the rationale for students now being required to become a member of IHRIM before applying for the NCCQ examination, when this was previously unnecessary

A. NCCQ students have always been required to be a member of IHRIM but their first year's membership fee was waived in the past. This caused inequality with other students of IHRIM qualifications (our Foundation, Certificate and Diploma qualifications) who all had to pay their membership fees and so the members voted at an EGM held in January that absorption of this fee should cease forthwith and that all students should be treated equitably.

Q. In terms of the cost of membership, please could you outline the benefits this will bring the student taking the exam/Trust they belong to

A. Members are given access to the members' area of the IHRIM web site where topical information is made available and where members can discuss issues with their peers on the members' forum. Past papers from previous NCCQ exams are also made available on the IHRIM web site. Many events (such as the HSJ clinical coding conference) give discount on attendance fees to IHRIM members. Members receive a quarterly journal which contains a pull out section for clinical coders but also contains articles of interest relating to health informatics in the broader sense. At least one educational event is held each year at which seminars specifically for clinical coders are held and members of IHRIM can attend at greatly reduced rates

Q. Is the cost of membership additional to the price of the exam and are students required to remain a member after completion of the exam? If successful, would students' ACC status be affected if they did not renew their membership?

A. The cost of membership is now additional to the cost of the exam (reference point 1 above) but once students have attained their ACC qualification there is no obligation to remain a member of IHRIM, although membership of a professional organisation like IHRIM is usually seen to be beneficial when working in the field of health informatics. Once attained, ACC status is not affected by membership of IHRIM.

Q. If a student did not pass all/any of the 2 papers, would they be required to remain a member of IHRIM to reapply for subsequent exam dates?

A. Students have always had to retain membership of IHRIM until they have passed both papers, this has not changed

Q. Does IHRIM expect individual students to pay for their membership, or be funded by the Trust they work for?

A. It is not for IHRIM to state where funding for membership comes from, some Trusts pay for their students to be members, in other cases individuals pay their own fees.

Q. Are Trust's able to become a member and include all potential coding staff in the membership, or are students required to become individual members?

A. A Trust can become a corporate member if they have a sufficient number of staff members (10 minimum) interested in IHRIM membership. Costs for membership are attached.

Q. Are coders who already have acquired the ACC status, required to pay to renew their membership?

A. All IHRIM members are required to pay their membership, whether ACC qualified or not, in the same way that IHRIM members who hold their Foundation, Certificate or Diploma qualifications must pay their membership fees. The attached document regarding fees shows what the rate is according to status.

Q. Now that past exam papers are now only available on the IHRIM website, are only members of IHRIM able to access these?

A. Past papers are only available on the members' area of the IHRIM web site as agreed with Connecting for Health.