

HCPCS Level II 2026 Visual Tabbing Guide

Coding Clarified LLC | Set Up Your Manual for CPC Exam Speed

HCPCS Level II is the smallest of your three manuals and carries the fewest exam questions, so it needs the fewest tabs. But the questions it does carry are quick points if your book is organized. This guide sets it up in under fifteen minutes.

How Your HCPCS Manual Is Built

HCPCS Level II codes are one letter followed by four numbers, and the letter tells you the category. The book has three working parts:

Zone	Section	What It Is
1	Index	Alphabetic lookup by item, service, drug name, or supply. Every lookup starts here.
2	Tabular sections A through V	Codes in alphanumeric order by letter category. Verify every code here after the Index.
3	Table of Drugs and Modifiers list	The Table of Drugs maps drug names and doses to J codes. The HCPCS modifier list covers LT, RT, F1 through FA, TA through T9, GA, GY, GZ and more.

The Tab Map

Tab Label	Where It Goes (2026 Manual)	What You Will Find There	Tab Edge Position
INDEX	First page of the Index	Start of the alphabetic lookup	Top edge
DRUG TABLE	First page of the Table of Drugs	Drug name to J code with route and dose per unit	Top edge, offset from INDEX
MODIFIERS	HCPCS Level II modifier list	Anatomic and payer modifiers: LT, RT, finger and toe modifiers, GA, GY, GZ	Bottom edge

Right Edge: Letter Category Tabs

Tab the first page of each letter category you are likely to visit. The heavy hitters for the CPC exam are marked. Small tabs, single letter labels, staircase pattern down the right edge just like your ICD-10-CM index letters.

Tab	Category	Exam Weight
A	Ambulance, transportation, medical and surgical supplies	High. Supplies and ambulance appear regularly.
E	Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	High. Wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, oxygen.
G	Procedures and professional services, including Medicare screening and preventive services	High. Medicare screening codes live here: colorectal, prostate, glaucoma screenings,

Tab	Category	Exam Weight
		the Welcome to Medicare and annual wellness visits. Flag the screening code block inside G.
J	Drugs administered other than oral method, chemotherapy	High. Injectable drug questions almost always land here. Pairs with the Drug Table.
L	Orthotics and prosthetics	Moderate to high. Braces and prosthetic devices.
Others	B (enteral/parenteral), K (DME MACs), P (path/lab), Q (temporary), V (vision/hearing) and remaining letters	Tab lightly or skip. Add later if your practice exams keep sending you there.

Standout Pages to Flag

- The Table of Drugs unit and route columns. J code questions often hinge on units: how many units of a 10 mg per unit drug for a 25 mg dose.
- The finger and toe modifiers (F1 through FA, TA through T9) in the modifier list.
- GA, GY, and GZ definitions. The ABN related modifiers are a recurring exam theme.
- The anesthesia provider modifiers: AA, AD, QK, QY, QX, and QZ. Know who each represents. QZ is CRNA service without medical direction, QX is CRNA service with medical direction, AA is anesthesiologist personally performed. Flag these in your modifier list.
- Any symbols or color coding key your publisher uses for coverage status.

The Lookup Workflow: See It in Action

Example 1: 'Injection of 40 mg of a drug supplied in 20 mg units'

1. Flip to your **DRUG TABLE** top tab. Find the drug by name, note the J code and the per unit dose.
2. Verify at your **J** letter tab in the tabular section.
3. Calculate units: 40 mg ordered at 20 mg per unit equals 2 units.

Example 2: 'Standard walker for home use'

1. Flip to your **INDEX** top tab. Look up Walker.
2. Verify the code at your **E** letter tab, reading each descriptor to match the type of walker documented.

Tab the Lookup Terms That Fooled You

When a practice question sends you to the Index and your first search term was not where the code lived, flag the term that actually worked and write your original term in the margin beside it. Supplies and equipment hide under unexpected entries. Building this personal cross reference is how you learn the language of the Index, and the terms that fooled you once are the ones that will appear again.

AAPC Tab Rules

- Tabs must be permanently affixed. Removable sticky note flags are not permitted in the exam.

- Tab labels may contain only section names or brief titles. No answers, definitions, or study notes on the tabs.
- Handwritten notes and highlighting on the pages of your manual are allowed. Annotate the physical book you will test with.

Final word

HCPCS questions are the fastest points on the exam when your Drug Table and letter tabs are in place. Set the book up once and those points are yours.

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