

CPDHTS Learning Plan

The **Certified Professional in Digital Health Transformation Strategy (CPDHTS®)** is the first professional certification created that measures one's knowledge, understanding, and grasp of the rigorous body of knowledge for digital health transformation strategy. Based on a review of the global body of knowledge, as well as extensive exam design based on global subject matter experts, the CPDHTS is a mark of distinction for those who are experienced in guiding strategy and design for digital health information initiatives.

The CPDHTS Learning Plan has been designed to create a roadmap for candidates to prepare to take the CPDHTS exam. It has been designed using the idea that a candidate will spend a dedicated amount of time reviewing each content area/subdomain area to familiarize oneself with the components of the vast body of knowledge. Each candidate should determine how much preparation time is needed to properly prepare to take the exam and adjust this schedule accordingly. These are suggested resources and suggested schedules and are not intended to be exhaustive or prescriptive or guarantee a passing exam score.

There are also two attachments included in this document. The first, **Addendum A, Readiness Checklist**, may be utilized to track progress toward achieving the end goal of challenging the exam. The second, **Addendum B, the CPDHTS Professional Certification Authoritative Reading Reference List** provides additional resources, which may aid in preparing a candidate for the exam. And the third, **Addendum C, Tips for Preparing for a Certification Exam**.

Learning Objectives

At the completion of using the resources identified as a part of this Learning Plan, the candidate will be able to:

1. Describe the four domains outlined in the CPDHTS Outline of Exam Topics.
2. Cite the sub-components of the Digital Health Ecosystem domain.
3. Identify the sub-components of the Person-Enabled Health (Health) domain.
4. Cite the sub-components of the Measurement and Improvement (Transformation) domain.
5. Identify the sub-components of the Strategy, Governance, and Organizational Management (Strategy) domain.

6. Articulate the meaning of digital health.
7. Describe the four components of a digital health framework.
8. Recite the “language and concepts” of a digital health transformation strategist.
9. Identify a potential digital health strategy for your organization that incorporates the resources reviewed for exam preparation.

HIMSS recommends that all exam candidates exam begin preparing by reviewing the [CPDHTS Candidate Handbook](#).

We have also created the [CPDHTS Competency Gap Assessment Tool](#). This tool will help candidates determine their readiness for the exam. It will help identify personal strengths and areas for growth to support professional development objectives and help candidates acquire or strengthen skills and competencies required for success as a digital health transformation strategist.

Recommended Resources

HIMSS (2020). *Digital Health: A Framework for Healthcare Transformation* [White paper]. Office of Scientific Research. Retrieved June 14, 2022 from <https://www.himss.org/resources/digital-health-framework-healthcare-transformation-white-paper>

Deloitte. (2019). *Closing the Digital Gap: Shaping the Future of UK Healthcare* [Research paper]. Retrieved June 14, 2022 from <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/uk/Documents/life-sciences-health-care/deloitte-uk-life-sciences-health-care-closing-the-digital-gap.pdf>

Marx, E.W. and Padmanabhan, P. (2021). [*Healthcare Digital Transformation: How Consumerism, Technology and Pandemic are Accelerating the Future*](#). CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

Lawry, T. (2020). [*AI in Health: A Leader's Guide to Winning in the New Age of Intelligent Health Systems*](#). CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group.

*Please note that HIMSS members save 25% off all print books, plus free shipping. Contact himssbookstore@himss.org to receive the member discount code.

Other Supplementary Materials

HIMSS, along with the [HIMSS Professional Certification Board](#), has prepared a listing of authoritative references which may also be accessed when preparing for the CPDHTS

exam. Please see **Attachment B-CPDHTS Professional Certification Reference Reading List below.**

Other Online References

[HIMSS Accelerating Digital Health Transformation Globally: A Comprehensive and Systematic Overview \(Self-Directed Course\)](#)

Aligned to the *Digital Health: A Framework for Healthcare Transformation* white paper, learners will be guided through ten modules covering the digital health transformation ecosystem. All course content was developed by subject matter experts currently teaching or practicing in the digital health transformation strategy ecosystem. The course was designed by Anne Snowdon, RN, PhD, FAAN. Approximate seat time is 10 hours. Additional fee required.

Addendum A

Readiness Checklist

Activity	Date Completed
Pre-Review Tasks:	
Assemble study aides, e.g., 3x5 notecards, pens, multi-colored highlighters, mini-Post-it Notes, notebook, rubber bands to hold groups of notecards, snacks (pretzels, carrots, other crunchy items and favorite cold beverages)	
Prepare your study area, e.g., chair cushions, lighting, study aide organization systems	
Week One Tasks:	
Review the CPDHTS information on the HIMSS website here	
Review the CPDHTS Candidate Handbook	
Identify a target date to take CPDHTS Exam	
Based on the identified exam target date, identify the number of weeks, and deadline date, to prepare	
Review the CPDHTS Professional Certification Authoritative Reading Reference List , determine which books to order from Taylor & Francis and place your order (use discount code HIM25* for 25% off and free shipping)	
Week Two Tasks:	
Complete the CPDHTS Competency Gap Assessment tool	
Based on the gap analysis, identify specific sub-domain areas of focus	
Apply to take the CPDHTS exam	
Once you receive your eligibility ID number identified within the "Authorization to Test" communication, schedule the CPDHTS Exam (candidates may want to wait until studying is completed before	
Week Three Tasks:	
Download the recommended resource Digital Health: A Framework for Healthcare Transformation [White paper]. Office of Scientific Research. https://www.himss.org/resources/digital-health-framework-healthcare-transformation-white-paper	
Scan the Table of Contents (p. 1)	
Read the Introduction (pp. 2-4)	
Read the Summary	
Review Works Cited (pp. 58-62)	
Review the Appendix (pp. 63-69)	
Read all content sections (pp. 8-56)	
Week Four Tasks:	
Review your notes from Week Three Tasks	
Listen to the HIMSS22 Session Recording. Reimagining Healthcare: Abu Dhabi's Digital Transformation	
Access and review the Abu Dhabi Department of Health website and read more about the Malaffi initiative	
Review your vocabulary notecards and notes from Week Three and Four tasks	

Week Five Tasks:	
Register for/purchase the course Accelerating Digital Health Transformation Globally: A Comprehensive and Systematic Review	
Consume modules 1-5 of the course	
Re-take each knowledge check and exam, one after another, to simulate taking the actual exam	
Review your vocabulary notecards and notes from the previous two, three, and four weeks	
Week Six Tasks:	
Consume modules 6-10 of the course	
Re-take each knowledge check and exam, one after another, to simulate taking the actual exam	
Review the CPDHTS Outline of Exam Topics for each domain and sub-domain, located in the CPDHTS Candidate Handbook , and memorize each	
For Domain I, create a use case narrative on implementing a specific type of digital health technology	
Repeat for Domain II	
Repeat for Domain III	
Repeat for Domain IV	
Create a paper detailing the considerations in each domain and sub-domain, that you would want to communicate to leadership, for implementing your specific type of digital health technology	
Review your vocabulary notecards and notes from the previous two, three, four, and five weeks of study	
Week Seven Tasks:	
Download the white paper and review: Closing the Digital Gap: Shaping the Future of UK Healthcare [Research paper]. https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/uk/Documents/life-sciences-health-care/deloitte-uk-life-sciences-health-care-closing-the-digital-gap.pdf	
Using the CPDHTS Professional Certification Authoritative Reading Reference List below, review sections for those books that you have chosen	
Identify other resources of interest to review from the CPDHTS Reference Reading List	
Review notes from the previous two-six weeks of study	
Week Eight-Nine Tasks:	
Continue downloading and reviewing resources of interest from the CPDHTS Professional Certification Reference Reading List below. Please, take extensive notes	
Based on your readings, add to the use case narratives listed above	
Week Ten Tasks:	
Research and study gaps identified in Week 2	
Create additional vocabulary notecards and notes	
Summarize notes	
Review vocabulary notecards and notes for weeks two-nine	

Week Ten Tasks:	
Review all vocabulary note cards and have a friend or family member quiz you	
Review and summarize all notes	
Review vocabulary notecards and summarized notes	
Week Eleven Tasks:	
Re-take all knowledge checks and quizzes in the Accelerating Digital Health Transformation Globally: A Comprehensive and Systematic Review	
Review all vocabulary notecards and notes from the previous ten weeks	
Week Twelve Tasks:	
Re-review the CPDHTS Outline of Exam Topics located in the CPDHTS Candidate Handbook , and memorize each	
Re-review your use case which incorporated the many elements of your study plan	
Re-review your vocabulary notecards and notes	
Sit for the exam	
Celebrate your accomplishment of passing the exam	

Addendum B

CPDHTS Professional Certification Authoritative Reading Reference List

The CPDHTS Professional Certification Authoritative Reading Reference List is a comprehensive listing of sources that may be used to supplement one's reading when preparing for the exam. Each resource is aligned to the specific exam domain I. Digital Health Ecosystem; II Person-Enabled Health; III. Measurement and Improvement; IV. Strategy, Governance, Organizational Management, and Workforce. Checkmarks on the document identify sub-domain items for additional study. Access the Reading List [here](#).

Addendum C

Tips for Preparing to Take a Certification Exam

General advice on potential preparation steps for individuals considering sitting for a certification exam.

- Review any general materials related to the exam that you can find (typically found on the organization's website; e.g. candidate handbooks, exam outlines, specifications, readiness assessments, etc.).
- Create a study schedule, determine when you would like to take the exam, and then plan your timeline to lead up to that date.
- Using your education and experience determine your relative comfort level with the subject matter (typically defined through content outlines, domains, content areas, knowledge statements, learning objectives, etc.).
 - Use this information to determine and prioritize what content you will study, versus what content you may only need to review, and how long you will spend on each area.
 - Use any information regarding “relative weight” of each content area to aid in determining the priority in which you will approach the learning materials.
- Perform your own independent research; however, ensure that you are using authentic sources for your study materials. Obtain any hands-on materials that you will need.
 - Many times, a certification program will provide an authoritative reading/reference list of materials. Utilize these materials.
- Create quality summary notes. Writing the information on “paper” will help reinforce what you have read. Study these notes repeatedly.
- Re-write the content from memory onto paper and then compare these notes to the original notes.
- If presented with the opportunity, create or join a study group comprised of others studying for the same exam. Sharing and learning from one another’s different educational backgrounds and experiences can provide very valuable insights. These groups can also be great for doing deeper dives and assisting in answering questions that you may have about the materials.
- Answer as many practice questions as you can and identify your areas of weakness. Focus on these areas. Add answers to incorrect questions to your summary notes.

- If offered, participate in a practice/self-assessment exam. These typically utilize the same testing platform and are representative of the content you will find presented as part of the exam. Not only will this familiarize you with the platform ahead of time, but it will also inform you of your performance. These insights can be used to determine any additional preparation that you may want to pursue prior to taking the exam.
- Finally, as necessary, reach out to the sponsoring organization of the exam. They often have staff members identified as resources to help guide individuals through the preparation process.