



EASTERN
West Virginia Community & Technical College
Workforce Education Department

Medical Administrative Assistant

The Medical Administrative Assistant Profession

Medical administrative assistants primarily work in doctor's offices, clinics, outpatient settings, hospitals, and other healthcare settings. Medical administrative assistants, medical secretaries, and medical records clerks are all positions in great demand. The growth and the complexity of the U.S. healthcare system have resulted in a substantial increase in the need for qualified medical administrative assistants.

The Medical Administrative Assistant Program

This program prepares students to function effectively in many of the administrative and clerical positions in the healthcare industry. It provides students a well-rounded introduction to medical administration that delivers the skills students require to obtain an administrative medical assistant position or advance within their current healthcare career. This course covers the following key areas and topics:

- History and background of the medical assisting profession
- Interpersonal skills, medical ethics, and basic medical law
- Telephone techniques and skills for scheduling appointments
- Medical terminology
- Basics of insurance billing and coding
- Medical records management and management of practice finances

Education and Certification

- Medical administrative assistants should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED.
- Several national certification options are available to student who complete this course.

Detailed Course Topics Covered

- An overview of the healthcare industry and expectations for a healthcare professional
- Role of the medical administrative assistant
- History of medicine, medicine and the law, medical malpractice, medical ethics, and medical practice specialties
- Ethical and legal issues, fraud abuse, and compliance
- Office and patient communication techniques, appointment scheduling and general office duties
- Technology in the healthcare environment
- Basic terminology used in the medical office
- Medical records management, confidentiality of the medical record, initiating a medical record for a new client and filing reports in the medical record
- HIPAA review and patient bill of rights and confidentiality
- Financial and practice management
- Health insurance coverage, and billing and coding procedures
- Professional fees, billing and collecting procedures, accounting systems and credit arrangements
- Medical accounting, financial statements, cost analysis, and budgets for the medical practice
- Specimen collection, laboratory safety and federal and state regulations
- Assisting with medical emergencies
- Career development