

MEDICAL CODING

AN OVERVIEW

- Medical Coders assign codes to various medical treatments and procedures to obtain payment from insurance companies as well as for use in research. These professionals are skilled in using computerized data management systems and entering accurate diagnostic information. Medical coders can obtain an entry-level basic coding certificate or a coding specialist certificate. By obtaining an Associate degree in Health Information or a Bachelor's degree in Health Information Management Coders can increase their earning potential and level of responsibility.

NECESSARY SKILLS

- Accuracy
- Confidentiality
- Computer Skills
- Organized & familiar with databases

REQUIRED COURSEWORK & DEGREE

Can obtain basic medical coding certificate or more advanced coding specialist certificate. See also: Health Info Specialists.

Courses:

- Anatomy & Physiology
- Physiology
- Medical Terminology
- Coding: ICD, CPT

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS & INTERESTS

Conventional, like working with data & details. Prefer to follow set procedures and have a clear line of authority.

Ability to adapt easily to change

PATIENT CONTACT

None. Work is primarily with other health professionals.

JOB OUTLOOK & WAGES

Expected to grow much faster than average through 2014

Base Salary: Approximately \$25,000-30,000 annually

Want to know more? Go to:

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