

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Diploma Program

41 weeks – 920 hours, 60 credit units

The Medical Assistant diploma program is designed to prepare students for entry-level positions as medical assistants in a variety of health care settings. Students learn the structure and function of the major body systems in conjunction with medical terminology, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, computer skills, administrative processes, bookkeeping and accounting practices, and the processing of medical insurance forms and claims. In recent years, the medical assisting profession has become indispensable to the health care field. Physicians have become more reliant on medical assistants for their front and back office skills. Medical offices and ambulatory care providers, clinics, urgent care centers and insurance providers are seeking their services.

The goal of the Medical Assistant diploma program is to prepare competent entry-level medical assistants in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (behavior) learning domains required and necessary to prepare them for entry level positions such as clinical or administrative assistant, medical receptionist, and medical insurance biller.

NOTE: Medical Assistant graduates are immediately eligible to sit for the Registered Medical Assistant Examination. Candidates who pass the exam are considered Registered Medical Assistants (RMA). Graduates are also eligible to sit for the Certified Medical Assistant examination through the national Healthcare Association. Candidates who pass the exam are considered Certified Medical Assistants (CMA).

Module ID and Title

HCIN Introduction to Healthcare Professional 80 hours 6 credits

Module A Integumentary, Sensory, and Nervous Systems, Patient Care and Communication 80 hours 6 credits

Module B Muscular System, Infection Control, Minor Office Surgery, and Pharmacology 80 hours 6 credits

Module C Digestive System, Nutrition, Financial Management, and First Aid 80 hours 6 credits

Module D Cardiopulmonary Systems, Vital Signs, Electrocardiography, and CPR 80 hours 6 credits

Module E Urinary, Blood, Lymphatic, and Immune Systems and Laboratory Procedures 80 hours 6 credits

Module F Endocrine, Skeletal, and Reproductive Systems, Pediatrics, and Geriatrics 80 hours 6 credits

Module G Medical Law and Ethics, Psychology, and Therapeutic Procedures 80 hours 6 credits

Module H Health Insurance Basics, Claims Processing, and Computerized Billing 80 hours 6 credits

Module X Medical Assistant Diploma Program Externship 200 hours 6 credits

Total 920 Hours 60 Credits

MODULE HCIN - Introduction to the Healthcare Profession 6 Quarter Credits

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the healthcare profession for new students starting an allied health diploma program. Students will learn the basics of medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, infection control, HIPAA, and OSHA. Additional topics covered include professional codes of ethics, medical insurance and billing, keyboarding, computer applications, basic mathematical skills, and critical professionalism skills are also taught. Students will have the opportunity to learn program-specific topics throughout the course. CPR certification is also included in the course. Prerequisite: None Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40 Outside: 20 Hrs.

MODULE A – Integumentary, Sensory, and Nervous Systems, Patient Care and Communication 6 Quarter Credits

Module A emphasizes patient care, including physical examinations and procedures related to the eyes and ears, the nervous system, and the integumentary system. Students will have an opportunity to work with and review patient charts and perform front office skills related to records management, appointment scheduling, and bookkeeping. Students gain skills in communication (verbal and nonverbal) when working with patients both on the phone and in person. Students develop working knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology of the special senses (eyes and ears), nervous and integumentary system, common diseases and disorders, and medical terminology related to these systems. Students check vital signs, obtain blood samples, and prepare and administer injections. Also introduced are strategies for dealing with change, setting goals, and getting motivated. Students learn how to prepare an attractive business letter, along with demonstrating increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and in medical transcription. Students build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO.* Lecture: 40 Lab: 40

MODULE B – Muscular System, Infection Control, Minor Office Surgery, and Pharmacology 6 Quarter Credits

Module B stresses the importance of asepsis and sterile technique in today's health care environment, along with the proper use of personal protective equipment. Students learn about basic bacteriology and its relationship to infection and disease control. Students identify the purpose and expectations of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) regarding disease transmission in the medical facility. Students study basic math concepts to prepare for medication dosage calculations. Students learn the principles and various methods of administering medication. Basic pharmacology

and the uses, inventory, classification, and effects of therapeutic drugs are included. Students participate in the positioning and draping of patients for various examinations and prepare for assisting with minor office surgical procedures. Students gain knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology of the muscular system, common diseases and disorders, and medical terminology related to this system. Students check vital signs, obtain blood samples, and prepare and administer injections. Also introduced are strategies for setting and accomplishing personal goals, along with how to succeed in accomplishing these goals. Students describe how to handle numbers, symbols, and abbreviations in transcribed material and demonstrate increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and in medical transcription. Students build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE C – Digestive System, Nutrition, Financial Management, and First Aid 6 Quarter Credits

Module C introduces students to the health care environment, office emergencies, and first aid, with an emphasis on bandaging techniques for wounds and injuries. Students will discuss types of disasters and the medical assistant's role in emergency preparedness and assisting during and after a disaster. Students learn bookkeeping procedures, accounts receivable and payable, financial management, banking, and check-writing procedures essential to the successful operation of the medical office. Students study the administrative and clinical uses of the electronic health record. Students develop working knowledge of good health, nutrition, weight control, and strategies in promoting good health in patients. They acquire knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology, common diseases and disorders, and medical terminology of the digestive system. Students check vital signs, obtain blood samples, and prepare and administer injections. They are introduced to strategies for building active reading and comprehension skills, along with techniques for managing time. Students practice transcribing accurate medical record notes and correcting erroneous entries, along with demonstrating increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and in medical transcription. Students build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE D – Cardiopulmonary Systems, Vital Signs, Electrocardiography, and CPR 6 Quarter Credits

Module D examines the circulatory and respiratory systems, including the structure and function of the heart and lungs, along with diseases, disorders, diagnostic tests, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology associated with these systems. Students apply knowledge of the electrical pathways of the heart muscle in preparation for applying electrocardiography leads and recording a 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG). Students receive instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), which enables them to respond to cardiac emergencies. Students check vital signs and differentiate between normal values for pediatric and adult patients. Students obtain blood samples and prepare and administer injections. Students will discuss how to apply critical and creative thinking skills to analyzing and problem solving in the workplace and everyday life. Students study the preparation of a History and Physical examination report, along with demonstrating increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and in medical transcription. Students build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisite: MAINTRO*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE E – Urinary, Blood, Lymphatic, and Immune Systems and Laboratory Procedures 6 Quarter Credits

Module E introduces microbiology and laboratory procedures commonly performed in a physician's office or medical clinic. Students learn specimen identification, collection, handling and transportation procedures and practice venipuncture and routine diagnostic hematology. Maintenance and care of laboratory equipment and supplies are discussed. Students gain working knowledge of radiology and nuclear medicine, in addition to various radiological examinations and patient preparation for these exams. Anatomy and physiology of the urinary system and the body's immunity, including the structure and functions, as well as common diagnostic exams and disorders related to these systems, is presented. Students perform common laboratory tests, check vital signs, and perform selected invasive procedures. Students learn essential medical terminology related to the body systems and topics introduced in the module. Students learn the skills involved in organizing and writing a paper. Students transcribe miscellaneous medical reports, along with demonstrating increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and in medical transcription. Students build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE F – Endocrine, Skeletal, and Reproductive Systems, Pediatrics, and Geriatrics 6 Quarter Credits

Module F covers general anatomy and physiology, including an overview of the study of biology and the various body structures and systems. This module also examines the anatomy, physiology, and functions of the skeletal, endocrine, and reproductive systems, along with medical terminology associated with these systems. Students learn about child growth and development. They develop working knowledge of the skills necessary to assist in a

pediatrician's office and learn the important differences that are specific to the pediatric field. Some of the skills students learn in this area are height and weight measurements and restraining techniques used for infants and children. They check vital signs, assist with diagnostic examinations and laboratory tests, and instruct patients regarding health promotion practices. Students gain knowledge of signs and symptoms of possible child abuse or neglect. Students also become familiar with human development across the life span. They will discuss normal and abnormal changes that are part of the aging process and the medical assistant's responsibilities related to the older person. Students check vital signs, obtain blood samples, and prepare and administer injections. Students discuss the importance of the ability to compose business documents and reports and practice composing business documents and e-mails. Students demonstrate increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and in medical transcription. Students build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE G – Medical Law, and Ethics, Psychology, and Therapeutic Procedures 6 Quarter Credits

Module G covers the history and science of the medical field, as well as the medical assisting profession. Students gain working knowledge of concepts related to patient reception in the medical office and preparing for the day. They discuss the importance of professional behavior in the workplace. Students learn what it takes to become an office manager and the responsibilities an office manager has to the office, the staff, and the physician. Students are introduced to medical office safety, security, and emergency provisions. They study how to maintain equipment and inventory. The functions of computers in the medical office are discussed. Students also talk about the role ergonomics plays in the health of the staff and patients. Students learn how to provide mobility assistance and support to patients with special physical and emotional needs, and various physical therapy modalities are discussed. Also introduced are the basic principles of psychology, psychological disorders, diseases, available treatments, and medical terminology related to mental and behavioral health. Medical law and ethics in relation to health care are discussed. Skills and attitudes necessary for success in the workforce are introduced, along with how to create a résumé, and follow through with the job search. Students check vital signs, obtain blood samples, and prepare and administer injections. Students demonstrate increasing speed and accuracy on the computer keyboard and build on their keyboarding and word processing skills related to word processing and spreadsheet programs, with acceptable progress through the identified text(s). Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: None*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE H – Health Insurance Basics, Claims Processing, and Computerized Insurance Billing 6 Quarter Credits

Module H introduces students to insurance billing and provides an in-depth exposure to diagnostic and procedural coding. Students gain working knowledge of the major medical insurances and claims form processing. They are introduced to types and sources of insurance, health insurance basics, traditional insurance plans, managed care, Medicare, Medicaid, military carriers, and Worker's Compensation and Disability insurance. This module covers the format of the ICD-9-CM manual, the CPT-4 and HCPCS manuals, and their relationship to the process of insurance claims submission. Patient expectations of the medical practice in regard to billing and collections and patient confidentiality are covered. Students gain knowledge of how to enter patient information and schedule appointments electronically, along with processing insurance claims both manually and electronically. Students continue to develop basic clinical skills by taking vital signs, obtaining blood samples, and preparing and administering injections. Out-of-class activities will be assigned and assessed as part of this module. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO*. Lecture Hours: 40 Lab Hours: 40

MODULE X – Medical Assistant Externship 6 Quarter Credits

Upon successful completion of all modules, medical assisting students participate in a 200-hour externship at an approved facility. The externship provides the student an opportunity to apply principles and practices learned in the program and utilize entry-level medical assisting skills in working with patients. Medical Assisting Diploma Program externs work under the direct supervision of qualified personnel at the participating externship sites, and under general supervision of the school staff. Supervisory personnel at the site evaluate externs at 100- and 200-hour intervals. Completed evaluation forms are placed in the students' permanent records. Students must successfully complete their externship experience in order to fulfill requirements for graduation. *Prerequisites: MAINTRO, Modules A-H*. Lecture Hours: 0 Lab Hours: 0 Other Hours: 200