

Medical Coding & Billing Specialists



What do they do?

Medical Coding and Billing are two important parts of the billing process for health services. Sometimes one person will perform both jobs while others may only do one or the other.

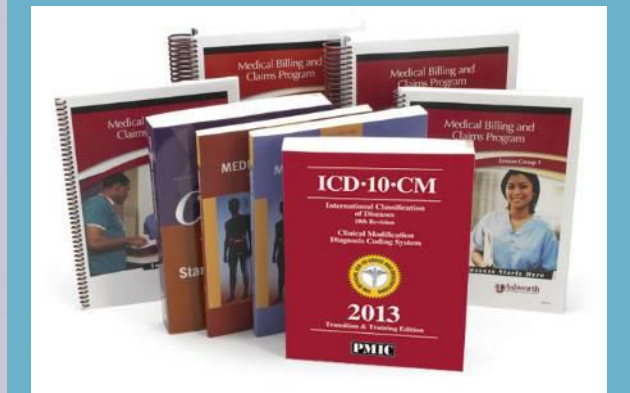
Medical Coders analyze patient records and apply special codes which are used to charge insurance companies, Medicare and then the patient. Medical Billing is more specific to invoicing and processing payments. Both jobs require a great deal of accuracy.

Where do they work?

Most Coding and Billing Specialists work in hospitals or smaller doctors' offices. Some may also work in nursing homes.

Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for Coding and Billing Specialists is \$34,160.



Education:

The length of education programs for medical coding and billing are not the same. Medical billing programs are generally less than a year long, while coding generally requires a 1-2 year degree.

Medical Billing and Medical Coding training in Madison:

Madison College: www.madisoncollege.edu

- Medical Coding Specialist (1 yr. diploma)
- Medical Billing Specialist (Certificate)

Herzing University (Madison): www.herzing.edu

- Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist (1 yr. diploma)
- Associate of Applied Science in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist (2 yr. degree)

High School students interested in becoming a Coding or Billing Specialist should take classes in health, biology, math and computer skills.

Accreditation:

Education programs for Coding and Billing are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

www.cahiim.org



Professional Associations:

The Professional Association of Healthcare Coding Specialists (PAHCS):

www.pahcs.org



American Medical Billing Association:

www.ambanet.net/AMBA.htm



Certification:

Medical Coding and Billing Specialists may become certified by passing an exam administered by either the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) or the National Health Career Association (NHA). The three organizations grant slightly different credential titles.

www.ahima.org

www.aapc.com

www.nhanow.com



Credentials and Specialization:

Advancement opportunities become available after a Medical Coding or Billing Specialist gains experience or specializes.

Coding:

- Certified Coding Associate (CCA) – AHIMA
- Certified Coding Specialist (CSS) – AHIMA
- Certified Coding Specialist – Physician Based (CSS-P) – AHIMA
- Certified Professional Coder (CPC) – AAPC
- Certified Professional Coder – Outpatient Hospital (CPC-H) – AAPC
- Certified Professional Coder – Payer (CPC-P) – AAPC

Experienced coders could choose to become certified in additional specialty credentials through the AAPC, which offers 22 areas of specialized clinical healthcare coding.

Billing:

- Certified Professional Biller (CPB) – AAPC
- Certified Medical Reimbursement Specialist (CMRS) – AMBA

Combined:

- Billing and Coding Specialist Certification (CBCS) – NHA

Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Medical Coding and Billing Specialists is expected to grow 22 percent between 2012-2022, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*, Medical Records and Health Information Technicians:
www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/medical-records-and-health-information-technicians.htm

