



Medical Assistant

Facts about Medical Assistants & Job Opportunities

According to the California Employment Development Department, the number of Medical Assistants is expected to grow much faster than average growth rate for all occupations. Jobs for Medical Assistants are expected to increase by 30.6 percent, or 23,300 jobs between 2008 and 2018. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the number of Medical Assistants is expected to grow much faster than average growth rate for all occupations. Jobs for Medical Assistants are expected to increase by 15.7 percent, or 520 jobs between 2008 and 2018.

Most Medical Assistants work in doctors' offices. Others work in hospitals, outpatient care centers, schools, and other health care practitioners' offices, including chiropractors, optometrists, and podiatrists.

Prior to performing technical supportive services, a medical assistant shall receive training, as necessary, in the judgment of the supervising physician, podiatrist or instructor to assure the medical assistant's competence in performing that service at the appropriate standard of care.



What Does a Medical Assistant Do?

Medical Assistants greet patients in medical offices or other medical settings where they help doctors with examinations and treatments. They run routine lab tests such as urinalysis and blood counts. They may take blood pressure readings and take temperatures. They may give injections or perform 'finger sticks' to draw small amounts of blood if they are properly trained. They prepare treatment rooms for patient examinations and sterilize and arrange instruments and equipment used in treatment and diagnosis. They check office and lab supplies and keep the waiting, consulting, and examination rooms neat and orderly.

Personal Characteristics & Working Conditions

Medical Assistants frequently show social, conventional, and realistic traits. Social occupations frequently involve working with, communication with, and teaching people. These occupations often involve helping or providing service to others.

Medical Assistants usually work in pleasant, well-lit, air-conditioned offices. They lift, stand, stoop, and walk to do their work. They constantly interact with other people and may have to handle several responsibilities at once. Uniforms are usually required and may be supplied by employers. Most full-time Medical Assistants work a regular 40-hour week. Some work part-time, evenings, or weekends. Many employers hire part-time Assistants.

How much can I earn?

The median wage in 2010 for Medical Assistants in California was \$29,962 annually, or \$14.41 hourly. The median wage for Medical Assistants in the San Francisco Bay Area was \$39,056 annually or \$18.77 hourly. The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.