

October 2019

HEALTHCARE HIGHLIGHTS

The Rural AHEC Student Newsletter



October's Healthcare Career Focus:

Medical Assistant

Medical Assistants (MEs) are in demand! MEs typically work alongside physicians and have various duties that may be both clinical and administrative. As an ME you may help keep healthcare provider organizations running smoothly by answering phones, removing sutures, drawing blood, and a range of other duties.

What might I do as a Medical Assistant?

Handle patient and vendor telephone calls/emails

Greet patients and direct them to appropriate seating and/or examination room

Update and file electronic medical records

Bookkeeping and billing

Arrange lab tests, hospital admissions, and specialist appointments

Take patient histories/record vital signs

Change dressings/remove sutures/draw blood

Educate patients about various treatments or procedures, ensuring that patients understand their options

Interact constantly with patients/family members, medical personnel, and/or vendors



How do I become a Medical Assistant?

- Acquire 1—2 years of education beyond regular high school diploma
- Graduate from a vocational/technical HS program, community college program or post-secondary vocational program
- Pass the American Association of Medical Assistants Exam
- Continue your education to renew your certification

Average Salary:
\$30,548

Job Outlook is Excellent!

What is it really like to be a Medical Assistant?

Most medical assistants work in a variety of settings, including clinics and doctors' offices. The medical assistant is a valuable member of a team that provides patient care. They need to be able to multi-task and prioritize their daily responsibilities. Work hours may be Monday through Friday, but many urgent care offices offer extended evening and weekend hours.

There is a lot of interaction with all kinds of people and different kinds of tools/equipment. Becoming an ME does not cost as much as many other healthcare career programs, and it is a good stepping stone to an advanced career in healthcare. It is also very fulfilling and interesting due to the constant variation in job activities.

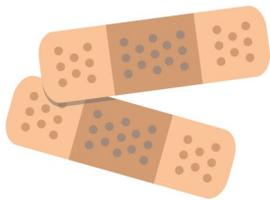


Find out what a day as a Medical Assistant is like:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jbS5bLzQoU>

Find out what you learn in a Medical Assistant Program:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-8sVSFj2ok>



“I love what I do... As a medical assistant, you learn every-day. You learn from your patients as well as your co-workers”

“I had the time to make (patients) feel comfortable. As a medical assistant, it’s easy to build relationships with patients”

“You must be a good listener. You need to be a caring, empathetic person. Non-judgmental. It helps to be outgoing... being highly organized is really important”

Jennifer K. Medical Assistant for over 5 years

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Please contact us if you have questions about healthcare career opportunities or educational pathways to healthcare careers!

Western New York Rural Area Health Education Center (R-AHEC) is one of nine centers in the New York State Area Health Education Center (NYSAHEC) organization. Our mission is to improve health and healthcare through education.

Acknowledgement: The NYSAHEC System is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Award titled Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Program (U77). The content and information is solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

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