

Certificate of Achievement:

Prepares students for positions in healthcare settings where they will be responsible for validating medical codes using International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) and Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manuals to facilitate reimbursement. Additionally, prepares students for the American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC) certification.



COURSES

Southwestern College offers classes in Medical Coding and Medical Insurance Billing.

Medical Coding: Intensive study of ICD-9, CPT and HCPCS Guidelines and Coding.

Medical Insurance Billing: Identification of legal and ethical consideration as it



Higher Education Center at National City

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The Medical Coding and Insurance Program is located at Southwestern College's Higher Education Center at National City.

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Medical Coding & Insurance

As insurance companies and health care agencies require more highly detailed records of services, the need for medical billing and coding professionals has grown rapidly.

What is Medical Coding?

Medical codes identify specific outpatient-inpatient procedures and services for billing private and public insurance companies.

Medical coders assign specific codes to medical procedures and services. Medical coders are essential in the health information industry. In fact, without them, the industry would be at a virtual standstill.



Medical coders read medical documentation (i.e. patient charts) then assign the proper code to the completed service or procedure, relying upon their knowledge and classification manuals. Once the proper coding is completed, medical coders key the code into the computer system.

Career Opportunities for Medical Coding & Insurance

Employment Outlook

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported the area of Medical Coding and Medical Insurance will grow by 20% in the next eight years.



This fast-growing medical field also provides graduates with a wide variety of employment settings:

- ◇ Hospitals
- ◇ Clinics
- ◇ Insurance Carriers
- ◇ Physicians' Private Practices
- ◇ Medical Coding & Billing Companies
- ◇ Entrepreneurship and more



What is Medical Insurance?

Medical insurance is a subspecialty of medical coding. The responsibility of the medical biller in a health care facility is to ensure that the doctors and nurses in their practice receive reimbursement for their work.



Medical billing and coding specialist play a vital role in healthcare

The objective of the Medical Coding & Insurance Specialist classes at Southwestern College is to prepare students for employment by teaching:

- ◇ Billing and coding skills along with professional office skills used in a variety of healthcare settings
- ◇ The software and terminology to communicate with doctors, nurses, and patients
- ◇ In-demand coding skills, including Practice Management Programs, ICD-9, and CPT