

Medical Insurance Coder/Biller*

(Certificate)

Health Science Career Cluster

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Medical Insurance Coders are technicians who specialize in coding all medical information regarding the patient's diagnosis and procedures. They are responsible for putting the correct code on documents so the insurance company will reimburse the physician or hospital for these costs. They must be accurate in their determination of the correct code or the insurance company will not reimburse the medical care provider. Technicians use the "diagnosis related groups" or DRG system to determine the amount the hospital or physician is reimbursed. Medical Coders have little or no contact with patients.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Medical Insurance Coders generally have regular office hours. However, if they work in a hospital setting that is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the technicians may work varied shifts. Concentration is necessary to ensure that the technician is accurate in their coding. Eye strain may be a problem for technicians who look at computer monitors for long periods.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Many coders must enhance their education with on the job training. There are coding certifications designed for coders. In order to keep the certifications current, continuing education units are usually required. Coding skills that health facilities are looking for include ICD-9-CM and CPT-4.

JOB OUTLOOK

Growth rates are expected to grow faster than the average. Medical Coding technicians will be in high demand. The job prospects will be very good due to technicians retiring or leaving the occupation.



*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009 and State Association statistics

Updated as of April 13, 2009

CAREER OPTIONS

Health care facilities or nursing care facilities

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico—\$37,000—43,009

Nationally — \$37,015—48,301

(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Medical records and health information technicians; medical secretary; and medical transcriptionists

SJC Basic Program Information

The Medical Insurance Coder is a Certificate Program designed for entry level employment. Students must earn a C or higher in all required pre-requisite and technical program courses. Students must be accepted into the program in order to register for these classes.

For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on link under Career Programs

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos103.htm

www.careers-nm.org; www.ahima.org

www.careersteps.com

