



## Medical Coding and Billing Industry Facts

### What Do Medical Coding And Billing Professionals Do?

The medical coding and billing field plays a critical role in the large and expanding healthcare industry. These professionals translate medical records into standardized codes that are used to bill patients and third-party payers such as insurance companies and Medicare. The medical coding field includes two distinct roles:

- Outpatient coding, which focuses on coding the records of patients who were not admitted for an overnight stay to a hospital.
- Inpatient coding, which focuses on patient records of those admitted to the hospital—these records are typically more complex.

The comprehensive Inpatient and Outpatient Medical Coding and Billing program prepares you to work in either of these specialties by helping you gain the knowledge and skills needed for national certification and both inpatient and outpatient positions.

### Where Do Medical Coding And Billing Professionals Work?

Medical coding and billing professionals usually work on-site for various healthcare facilities. Inpatient coders primarily work in hospitals but may also find positions in insurance companies or other healthcare facilities. Outpatient coding positions are generally in physicians' offices or outpatient clinics though they may also be found in hospitals or other healthcare facilities.

### How Much Do Medical Coding And Billing Professionals Earn?

This career offers an established career path for advancement, especially in large hospital networks, and the U.S. Department of Labor reports that, on average, medical coding and billing professionals earn over \$33,000 a year. Medical coding and billing professional can also increase their earning potential by earning various industry certifications.

### Is The Medical Coding And Billing Field Growing?

The 2010-2011 edition of the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, published by the U.S. Department of Labor, estimates:

- A growing job market as industry employment is projected to grow by 20% by 2018. In addition to these new jobs, there will also be open positions as people retire or leave the profession.
- A high demand for coding services, sustained by an aging population and the increasing number of tests, treatments, and procedures.
- A growing number of professionals needed in the field to code patients' records; act as liaisons between healthcare facilities, insurance companies, and other establishments; and manage the responsibilities associated with electronic health records.



*"I researched schools for two years before signing up for the Medical Coding and Billing course . . . I wanted to make sure I received training from a school that would set me apart from other candidates. . . . Recruiters are highly impressed with my skills and even though I recently graduated, I have several job opportunities in the works!"*

- Susan, Class of 2010



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