Medical Assistant

A medical assistant is a right hand to a doctor or a physician. From managing administrative tasks to medical jobs, medical assistants are someone a doctor can count on. Mainly the administration done by medical assistants include filing patient medical records, scheduling appointments, book keeping, answering phone calls, greeting patients and other organizational tasks. As for the clinical duties, it is a broad spectrum. They help in preparing wards for patients, helping with therapies, completing electrocardiograms, sorting and organizing laboratory specimens, dressing patients for operation theatres or X rays etc. A medical assistant is thus a roadway from the patient to the doctor.

A medical assistant may specialize in the following areas;

- Nursing
- General physician
- General medical and surgical practice
- Medical assistance
- Optometry
- Ophthalmology
- Podiatry

Moreover, a medical assistant should have the art to tackle any kind of patient with brilliant communication skills.

Where to start?

When dealing with the medical aspect you should be well qualified and should have proper command at what you do. Human ethics and expertise are the general requirements for any field that concerns the medicine sector. The very basic requirement is a diploma or a high school equivalent. To be eligible as a medical assistant you should have an associate degree in Medical Assistant or a certificate showing a two year program. Voluntary service in any Health and Hygiene firm is usually preferred. Formal training may or may not be present.

A training course that briefs about the general laboratory techniques, first aid, emergency situations, clinical equipment handling, medical terminologies and general doctor-patient relationship is obligatory. A medical assistant should have a complete command at communication skills and office handling.

What about the salary?

The salary goes along with the experience. Yearly income of those having a work experience of less than a year ranges from $20,000 to $35,000; and it can go as high as $30,000 to $40,000 yearly for those having a more than a 20 years experience (PayScale). According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median yearly earning of a medical assistant was around $28,000 in 2007.
Is there any growth in this field?
In 2006, there were around 417,000 medical assistants operating in this sector. By 2016, it is expected that medical opportunities would move to a higher scale due to the growing discoveries in medicine and technological advancing, providing a bright future to medical assistants. Also with the advancement in education sector administration bodies are introducing fresh training and courses for medical assistants.

Testimonials
“*I feel proud of what I do. The choice of this career has laid a serious influence on me; I’m doing what I had never done before*” - Michelle Matus.

“*It feels great when I talk to the patients and make them feel better*” - Stephanie Ford.