



What is Certification?

The healthcare industry is growing at a rapid pace, creating many job opportunities in allied health occupations.

A recent survey found that 88% of healthcare employers require that their medical assistant professionals are certified at the time of employment or shortly thereafter.¹ Certification indicates that professionals have met a nationally-recognized measure of competency, which may lead to more job opportunities, a higher pay scale, and greater job security. Certification can offer the healthcare professional the following:

- Evidence of a personal commitment to a chosen profession
- A competitive edge during the job search
- Improved potential for earnings, career opportunities and advancement

Allied health professionals also can choose to “stack credentials” with multiple certifications in specialties such as phlebotomy and EKG administration, in that way adding even more value as a member of the healthcare team. Professionals who earn credentials in multiple areas of expertise can achieve higher levels of accountability and proficiency and are in high-demand among employers.

Why is certification important?

Professionals: Many employers prefer and various states require their workers to obtain certifications. NHA certification indicates that professionals have met a nationally-recognized measure of competency and may lead to more job opportunities, a higher pay scale, and greater job security.



Employers: By employing certified healthcare workers, employers benefit from a workforce with standardized knowledge, expedited workflow, and improved overall patient safety and satisfaction. Employers can entrust their certified employees to perform the administrative and clinical tasks aligned with their credentials, thus allowing doctors and nurses to focus on working at the top of their license and delivering medical care to patients.

Schools: By producing credentialed students, schools create an opportunity for increased job placement rates, increased job performance and, ultimately, better patient care.

Are all certifications the same?

No. That's why certification through NHA demonstrates not only a proven level of knowledge, but also a desire for excellence. Certification through NHA offers multiple advantages:

- NHA certification exams are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and updated regularly, ensuring that students have the most job-relevant knowledge and skills.
- Along with exams, NHA offers bundled interactive prep and study materials. Nine out of 10 Allied Health educational programs reported that NHA's preparation resources helped improve exam preparedness and pass rates of their candidates.²
- Employers offering career growth through certification can experience greater employee satisfaction and thus higher retention rates.³

Originally, licensed healthcare professionals (physicians and nurses) were the only healthcare professionals allowed to enter medical orders (test orders, lab requests, prescription refills, etc.) into Electronic Health Records included in the Meaningful Use measurements made by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In October 2012, the CMS issued a rule allowing medical assistants who are professionally credentialed by a third-party entity, such as those holding the NHA CCMA credential, to enter computerized orders counted toward the Meaningful Use measurements and incentive payments.

About NHA

Since 1989, NHA has prepared and certified more than 500,000 healthcare students and professionals, providing them with nationally recognized measurements of competency paired with easy-to-use study tools and personalized customer service.

NHA currently offers credentials in the following:

-  Clinical Medical Assistant Certification (CCMA)
-  Phlebotomy Technician Certification (CPT)
-  Medical Administrative Assistant Certification (CMAA)
-  EKG Technician Certification (CET)
-  Electronic Health Record Specialist Certification (CEHRS)
-  Pharmacy Technician Certification (CPhT)
-  Billing & Coding Specialist Certification (CBCS)
-  Patient Care Technician/Assistant Certification (CPCT/A)

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¹ Greenburg, S. & Caro, C. 2015. Investigation of Key Stakeholder Perspectives Regarding the Role of the Medical Assistant. New York, NY: Professional Examination Service.

² Research Solutions, June 2015.

³ Greenburg, S. & Caro, C. 2015. Investigation of Key Stakeholder Perspectives Regarding the Role of the Medical Assistant. New York, NY: Professional Examination Service.