

Can Men be Medical Assistants?

YES!

Do people describe you as a multi-tasker? A person of many talents? Are you able to communicate well, stay organized, and use your hands all equally well? Do you like to work both alone and with others? If so, a career as a medical assistant may be for you.

Idaho Wages
Hourly Range \$9.34 to \$21.96
Median Wage \$13.28

Preparation

To work as a medical assistant, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
 - graduate from a medical assisting program;
 - complete an internship;
 - pass exams if taking x-rays; and
 - be able to work as part of a team.
- A Technical Certificate is offered at the College of Southern Idaho**

Idaho Employment

1366 jobs—large occupation
23.1% annual growth
109 annual jobs—high openings
Nationally, men make up 9.4% of the labor force. *Source: US Dept of Labor (2006)*

Job Outlook

One factor in the growth of this occupation is technological advances in medicine. Because of these advances, more disorders can be treated. Another factor is growth in the population, especially of the elderly. This group is most likely to need medical attention. In addition, some health care providers are shifting tasks from nurses to medical assistants. This will also increase the demand for these workers.

Most job openings will be in doctors' offices and clinics. Job prospects should be excellent for medical assistants who have formal training or experience.



Regardless of Gender Medical Assistants need to:

- Greet patients when they arrive at the office or clinic.
- Interview patients and measure their vital signs, weight, and height.
- Hand instruments and materials to physicians.
- Collect blood and tissue samples for routine laboratory tests.
- Give shots to patients. May also give medication.
- Prepare treatment rooms for examination of patients. Lead patients to the room.
- Clean and sterilize instruments.
- Change dressings and bandages.
- Operate x-ray, electrocardiograph (EKG), and other equipment to administer routine tests.
- Complete insurance forms and maintain medical records.
- Contact other medical centers to schedule patients for tests.
- May explain treatments, medications, and doctor's instructions to patients.
- Schedule appointments and receive payment for services.
- Check inventory and order medical supplies and materials.
- Compute and mail monthly statements to patients and update billing records.

College of Southern Idaho
Center for New Directions
Non Traditional Occupations Program—732-6688
Medical Assistant Program
Contact Penny Glenn —732-6728