Professional Organizations and Accreditation

Professional organizations support medical professionals with certification and continuing education. Membership in these organizations is especially valuable when networking with peers. Let’s look at the three major professional organizations that support medical assistants.

American Association of Medical Assistants

The American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), [http://www.aama-ntl.org/](http://www.aama-ntl.org/), is one of the organizations established to support medical assistants in their careers. This is probably the most widely known association for medical assistants. A graduate of an accredited medical assisting program can sign up and take his or her certification exam through the AAMA. With the successful completion of the exam, the individual will become a certified medical assistant (CMA). CMA certification is valid for five years. During that period, the CMA is expected to complete continuing education units (CEUs). According to AAMA’s website, a CMA is expected to complete 10 points in administrative, clinical, and general areas and 30 points from a combination of the above within the five-year period to remain current. The CMA may also choose to take the examination again, rather than completing the CEUs. If medical assistants have allowed their certification to expire, they are required to retake the examination to regain their certification status. The AAMA provides CMAs with the information to obtain their CEUs and is also a great networking site to meet other CMAs and healthcare professionals.

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American Medical Technologists

American Medical Technologists (AMT), http://www.americanmedtech.org/, is another organization available to support medical assistants in their careers. Graduates of an accredited medical assisting program can take their exam through AMT and become registered medical assistants (RMAs). AMT requires the RMAs to complete 30 points within their Certification Continuation Program (CCP) every three years to remain an RMA. If individuals have allowed their registration to expire, they will be required to retake the examination to regain their RMA status. AMT also provides RMAs with information to obtain their CCP credits. It is also great way to network and meet other RMAs and healthcare professionals.

Graduates of an accredited medical assisting program can take their exam through AMT and become registered medical assistants (RMAs).

National Center for Competency Testing

Another organization that supports medical assistants is the National Center for Competency Testing (NCCT), https://www.ncctinc.com/. NCCT provides the medical assisting examination for the graduate of an accredited medical assisting program. Upon successful completion of the exam, the individual will earn a Nationally Certified Medical Assistant (NCMA) title. NCMAs are expected to complete 14 hours of CEUs every year to remain certified. If NCMAs allow their certification to expire, they will be required to retake the examination to regain their NCMA status. The NCCT provides NCMAs with the information to obtain their CEUs and is a great networking site to meet other NCMAs and healthcare professionals.
You can become a certified medical assistant (CMA), registered medical assistant (RMA), or a nationally certified medical assistant (NCMA), depending on the organization that administers the certification exam.