



Date: December 10, 2014

To: CPCA Members

From: DeeAnne McCallin, REC Director, Meaningful Use – CalHIPS0, and Ben Avey, Associate
Director of Policy and Communications - CPCA

Re: Required CPOE Qualifications for Medical Assistants (MA's)

MEMORANDUM

Question: What are the required qualifications for a Medical Assistant to enter orders in the medical record for purposes of including the order in the numerator for the Meaningful Use objective of Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE)?

Answer: The California Department of Health Care Services considers Medical Assistants to be “credentialed” for the purposes of CPOE if they meet one of the two requirements listed, below.

Please note that the credential must be obtained by an organization other than the employing organization. Also, the California Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) is currently exploring an option to allow licensed providers to certify MA's they employ in line with the Medical Board policy, but this guidance has not been approved or issued and therefore is not yet permitted. Only MA's who meet one of the two requirements listed below are considered “credentialed” at this time.

1. Obtain Medical Assistant certification by passing an exam offered by any of three national certifying agencies recognized by the Medical Board of California:
http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Physicians_and_Surgeons/Medical_Assistants/Certifying_Agencies.aspx
2. The Medical Assistant has completed a secondary, postsecondary, adult, community college or institutional program as described in option 2 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 16 of the Professional and Vocational Regulations, Section 1366.3(a). This includes:
 - a. Secondary, postsecondary, or adult education program in a public school authorized by the California Department of Education.
 - b. California Community College program provided for in California Education Code, Title 3, Division 7, Part 48 Community Colleges, Education Programs (78015-79210).

- c. Postsecondary Institution accredited by an accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education.

Background

Meaningful Use Stage 2 Specification sheet states that “any licensed healthcare professionals and credentialed medical assistants, can enter orders into the medical record for purposes of including the order in the numerator for the objective of CPOE if they can originate the order per state, local and professional guidelines. Credentialing for a medical assistant must come from an organization other than the organization employing the medical assistant.”

Because California does not have a process by which Medical Assistants become “credentialed”, there is confusion on who may and who may not enter orders in the medical records for purposes of CPOE.

The State of California has previously addressed this issue and published their response in a Frequently Asked Question document, which was reviewed and reaffirmed the week of December 2, 2014. The guidelines by which DHCS will consider a Medical Assistant Credentialed are found on Page 8 of this document - http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/OHIT/Provider_FAQs.pdf

References

The Medical Board of California, Medical Assistants – Certifying Agencies

www.mbc.ca.gov/Licensees/Physicians_and_Surgeons/Medical_Assistants/Certifying_Agencies.aspx

California Code of Regulations

Title 16. Professional and Vocational Regulations, Division 13 – Medical Board of California, Chapter 3 – Affiliated Healing Arts, § 1366.3. Administration of Training.

(a) Training required in Sections 1366, 1366.1 or 1366.2 may be administered in either of these settings:

(2) In a secondary, postsecondary, or adult education program in a public school authorized by the Department of Education, in a community college program provided for in Part 48 of Division 7 of the Education Code, or a postsecondary institution accredited by an accreditation agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education under Sections 94130 or 94311 of the Education Code. A licensed physician or podiatrist shall serve as advisor to the medical assistant training program. The instructor in a public school setting shall possess a valid teaching credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The instructor in a private postsecondary institution shall meet the requirements of Sections 94310 and 94311 of the Education Code and any regulations adopted pursuant to those sections.

California Law – Community College Program

Education Code, Title 3 - Postsecondary Education, Division 7 – Community Colleges, Part 48 – Community Colleges, Education Programs. Section 78015-79210

California Law – Postsecondary Education

Education Code, Title 3 – Postsecondary Education, Division 10 – Private Postsecondary and Higher Education Institutions, Part 59 – Private Postsecondary and Higher Education Institutions, Chapter 8 – Private Postsecondary Institutions

Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education

Link: www.bppe.ca.gov

United States Department of Education – Postsecondary Institutions Accreditation

Link: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>