



## **OCCUPATIONAL RISKS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTING**

Medical Assisting is a profession with many rewards, as practitioners can perform administrative, clinical, and laboratory services, filling several roles in a variety of healthcare environments. Medical Assistants work directly with providers and patients, with the goal of providing healthcare and ensuring patient safety. It is a position with a great deal of responsibility.

As with any healthcare position, there are certain occupation risks that come into play with being a medical assistant, and those are hazards include the following:

- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Sharps injuries
- Bloodborne pathogens and biological hazards
- Chemical and drug exposure
- Ergonomic hazards from lifting, sitting, and repetitive tasks
- Latex allergies
- Stress

There are protections set up with the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and those protections are particularly important within a healthcare environment. OSHA has a series of standards that protect the safety of healthcare workers and patients.

Accredited medical assisting programs are required to teach students about the hazards that they face on the job and the protocols that can be put into place to ensure a workplace culture that prioritizes safety.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics clearly outlines that is a growth field, with an anticipated 18% growth from 2020 to 2030.