

Washington Association for Community Health Community Health Centers Advancing Quality Care for All

Medical Assistant Apprenticeship Functional Timeline sponsored by WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

During	The apprentice should be watching & practicing	The apprentice should be independently	
month			
1	The scope of work for a certified MA Shadowing MA coach - get a sense of a typical day as a MA Using appropriate PPE Disinfecting, stocking, & turning over rooms Medical Record & EHR system procedures Rooming procedures Vital signs	Demonstrating professionalism Interacting appropriately with patients & staff Using appropriate PPE Following OSHA standards Perform medical aseptic techniques Rooming (including all vitals) all assigned patients	
After the first month, the MA should be able to work independently at a low level for much of a typical day.			
2	Preparing a patient for physical exam Assisting provider with physical exam of a patient Procedure setup including equipment used Ear irrigation and instillation procedures	Rooming all assigned patients Transferring patients and positioning them for physical exam Entering data into the medical record Sterilization	
3	Well child visits Rooming and vitals for pediatric patients Newborn screening tests Phlebotomy and venipuncture procedures Gynecological exam Prenatal exam and testing Postpartum visit <i>if applicable</i> Bandaging Suturing/Stapling Wound care Casting/Splinting	Primary assist for all procedures – including equipment set-up, provider assist, record keeping, follow-up instructions Setup and patient instruction for gynecological exam Setup and patient instruction for prenatal exam and testing	
By end of Quarter 1, MA can do all of the set-up, patient prep, and background work to keep patients and rooms turning over and do basic procedural assisting.			
4	Preparing sterile field, surgical scrub and sterile gloving Colon procedures and testing Medication reconciliation Injections, immunizations, and vaccines Pediatric immunizations	Identifying instruments and completing equipment setup for minor office surgeries Assisting patients with braces, crutches, transferring, etc.	
5	Collection of infectious disease specimens Performance of infectious disease tests Examine specimen collection with microscopes <i>if applicable</i> General purpose laboratory tests Laboratory form/request procedures Specimen collection and handling procedures All additional testing procedures (tuberculin, allergy, etc.) ECG setup and equipment placement	ECG procedures and patient instruction Administer injections, immunizations, and vaccines	
6	Phlebotomy and venipuncture procedures OSHA policies for phlebotomy collection and handling Testing involving phlebotomy collection	Instruct patients on procedures involving all phlebotomy collection tests Instructing patient on specimen collection for infectious disease testing Specimen collection and documentation	



During month	The apprentice should be watching & practicing	The apprentice should be independently	
By end of Quarter 2, MA is functioning independently at a MA-R level with mastery of MA-C level skills completed during months 7–9. Depending on the clinic setting, MA may rotate to a variety of specialty practices and develop skills in different areas as opportunities naturally arise to complete the remaining skills required.			
7	Equipment setup and sterilization techniques of required instruments	Phlebotomy and venipuncture procedures	
8	Medical emergency role/procedures Patient consultations Appropriate written and verbal communication skills	Practicing technical MA-C level skills Communicating health information to patients with limited abilities	
9	Disease prevention programs Continuing to assist with complex specialty procedures whenever possible	Practicing technical MA-C level skills	
By end of Quarter 3, MA is working independently in clinic at the MA-C Level. Months 10 – 12 are spent perfecting advanced skills and learning principles of patient-centered care.			
10	Continuing to practice technical MA skills Focusing on meaningful engagement with patients & provision of high-quality, patient-centered care	Practicing technical MA-C level skills	
11	Continuing to practice technical MA skills Focusing on meaningful engagement with patients & provision of high-quality, patient-centered care	Practicing technical MA-C level skills	
12	Continuing to practice technical MA skills Focusing on meaningful engagement with patients & provision of high-quality, patient-centered care	Practicing technical MA-C level skills	
By end of Quarter 4, MA is comfortable with all technical and interpersonal skills of the job and is functioning independently to the top of their scope (MA-C Level). Skills and learnings are verified by the coach/provider and by the instructor prior to taking their National Certification Exam 6 weeks post-graduation			

