

OCCUPATIONAL RISKS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTING

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Medical Assisting is a profession with many rewards, as practitioners can perform both administrative and clinical services, filling several roles in a variety of healthcare environments. The Bureau of Labor Statistics clearly outlines that it is a growth field with an anticipated growth rate of 16% from 2021 – 2031.

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 occupational risks that come into play with being a medical assistant and those hazards include the following:

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

At the same time, OSHA safety guidelines are set that protect both healthcare workers and patients.

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