



MDCA 1443-201CL
Medical Insurance for Medical Assistants
Fall 2021
Wednesday –Thursday 9:30am - 12:00pm

Instructor Information: Darlene Alexander, A.A.S., CMA, RMA dalexander@com.edu ,
409-933-8231/832-581-6630

Student hours and location: Thru-Fri. 8:30am - 9:30 am/12:00am - 1:00pm; STEMS bld. #12
Room 233

Required Textbook: Medical Insurance; A Revenue Cycle Process Approach: Valerius 8th
Edition. ICD-10 CM for Physician’s Office and CPT & HCPCS Coding

Course Description: Emphasizes accurate ICD-10 and CPT coding of office procedures for
payment/reimbursement by patient or third party and prevention of insurance fraud. Additional
topics may include managed care or medical economics.

Course Prerequisite/ Co-requisite: Students must be enrolled in MDCA 1309, MDCA 1302 and
HITT 1305 as co-requisites for this class.

Course Requirements: This course requires classroom attendance (on campus). You will also be
required to wear a uniform to consist of royal blue scrubs and appropriate shoes.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: As a student you are required
to complete all lessons, assignments, and test as part of each course within the program. Your
semester grade will be comprised of: Case studies, assignments, chapter quizzes, mid-term
exam, and final exam. Grading rubric for assignments is found on the course menu.

Grading Formula: As a student you are required to complete all lessons, assignments, and test as
part of each course within the program. Your semester grade will be comprised of:

Assignments	15%
Lab/Participation	10%
Quizzes	15%
Project	10%
Tests (mid-term = 20% and final = 30%)	50%

Final Grade Breakdown: In order for me to meet “grade due” deadlines, I must have all work submitted to me by the deadlines noted on the calendar. Absolutely, no late submittals of work can be accepted. Furthermore, I do not give extra-credit assignments in this course. Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Grading Scale:

- 90.0% to 100% = A
- 80.0% to 89.99% = B
- 75.0% to 79.99 % = C
- 70.0% to 74.99 % = D
- 0% to 70% = F

A student must receive a “C” (75%) or better.” If a student receives a grade of a “D”, or “F” for the same MDCA course on two occasions, the student will not be eligible to continue in the Medical Assistant Program.

The Medical Assisting program use a competency-based evaluation process that provides the students with three attempts to pass. If the student completes a competency on their first attempt, the student will earn a grade of 100%. If the student completes on their second attempt, the student will earn a grade of 90%. If the student completes on their third attempt, the student will earn a grade of 80%. Should the competency not be passed with an 80% or higher, the student will be required to repeat the course. Competency evaluations are averaged at the end of term for the student’s final grade. A student must receive a “C” (75%) or better.” If a student receives a grade of a “D”, or “F” for the same MDCA course on two occasions, the student will not be eligible to continue in the Medical Assistant Program

Late Work: Late work is defined as work not turned in when a student is present in class. Late work may be turned in with ten points off for each day the work is late up to an average of 70% or 2 days. All class work is due on the day it is given. Any class assignment not turned in on time will be considered late. All homework assignments are due on the assigned day – no exceptions! Homework assignments not turned in the next class day will be given a grade of zero.

Make-Up Policy: If a student misses a graded activity due to an **emergency absence, or illness (of the student)**, it is the student’s responsibility to promptly arrange for make-up work. Students that cannot complete assignments on time must contact the instructor. Parameters for make-up work will be made at the discretion of the instructor and may not be an option, depending on the circumstances. Furthermore, students that cannot take an exam within the allotted time must contact the instructor in order for the test to be considered for an additional attempt. The percentage of each activity will weight in the final grade, regardless if the student participates in the activity or test. Keep in mind, you must contact the instructor and make arrangement for submission. Do not expect the instructor

to remind you. If you fail to contact your instructor your work assignments may not be turned in and will receive zero for what was due.

Quizzes: Please Note – Quizzes cannot be made up. If you miss a quiz you will not receive a grade and it might affect your average. I will e-mail you if I make any adjustments to the calendar.

Mid-term and Exam make-ups will not be allowed unless there is an emergency, and I must be notified before the time of the exam.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend every class and to be on time. Students who are late more than 15 minutes late may be counted absent by the instructor. If an absence occurs, it is mandatory for the student to call my office (409-933-8231) and leave a reason for the absence. A student may be dropped for non-attendance after 2 absences. Leaving the class early (before being released by the instructor) will result in an absence. More than 2 absences would prohibit students from successful completion of this course (Instructors Judgment). Attendance will be checked daily by instructor.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Blackboard or other LMS)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students completing MDCA 1443 will be able to describe the basic features of medical insurance and describe procedures for implementing both managed care and insurance plans.
2. Students completing MDCA 1443 will be able to accurately code procedures and file third party reimbursement forms.
3. Students completing MDCA 1443 will be able to accurately bill patients or insurance carriers for visits and procedures.

General Education Core Objectives Table:

Students successfully completing this course will demonstrate competency in the following Core Objectives:

1. Communication Skills - Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
2. Critical Thinking Skills - To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
3. Teamwork - To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

SLO	Maps to Core Objective	Assess by Activity
SLO #1:	Communication Skills: Students will effectively develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral and visual communication (written, oral, and visual).	Chapter assignments and Discussions
SLO #2:	Critical Thinking Skills: Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry & the ability to analyze, evaluate & synthesize information	Chapter assignments, Discussions, and Quizzes
SLO #3:	Teamwork: Students will consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.	Discussion project (paired)

Learning Goals:

The learning goals for this course include:

- Working with medical insurance and billing.
- Claim Coding.
- Claim preparation.
- Payers
- Payment processing.
- Hospital services.
- Claim case studies.

Entry Level Competencies for the Medical Assistant taken from the 2015 Standards and Guidelines for the Medical Assisting Educational Programs:

This course includes the following competencies: (C-Cognitive, P-Psychomotor, A-Affective)

Knowledge Based:

- VIII.C.1. Identify: a. types of third-party plans; b. information required to file a third-party claim; c. the steps for filing a third-party claim
- VIII.C.2. Outline managed care requirements for patient referral.
- VIII.C.4 Define a patient-centered medical home (PCMH).
- Describe how to use the most current diagnostic coding classification system.
- VIII.C.1. Identify: a. types of third-party plans; b. information required to file a third-party claim; c. the steps for filing a third-party claim
- VIII.C.1. Identify: a. types of third-party plans; b. information required to file a third-party claim; c. the steps for filing a third-party claim

- VIII.C.3. Describe processes for: a. verification of eligibility for services; b. precertification; c. preauthorization
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- VIII.C.3. Describe processes for: a. verification of eligibility for services; b. precertification; c. preauthorization
- IX.C.1. Describe how to use the most current procedural coding system
- IX.C.2. Describe how to use the most current diagnostic coding classification system
- IX.C.3. Describe how to use the most current HCPCS level II coding system
- IX.C.4. Discuss the effects of: a. upcoding; b. downcoding
- IX.C.5. Define medical necessity as it applies to procedural and diagnostic coding

Skill Based:

- IX.P.2 Perform diagnostic coding.
- IX.P.3 Utilize medical necessity guidelines.

Behavior Based:

- VII.A.1. Demonstrate professionalism when discussing patient's billing record
- VII.A.2. Display sensitivity when requesting payment for services rendered.
- VIII.A.2 Display tactful behavior when communicating with medical providers regarding third party requirements.
- VIII.A.3 Show sensitivity when communicating with patients regarding third party requirements.
- IX.A.1. Use tactful communication skills with medical providers to ensure accurate code selection

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Kay Frieze, Allied Health Careers Chairperson at 409-933-8414 / kfrieze@com.edu .

Course Outline:

Class Schedule Fall 2021

<i>Week One</i> <i>Aug 25th - Aug 26th</i>	Chapter 1 - From Patient to Payment: Understanding Medical Insurance	Homework Assignment		Due <i>Sept 1st</i>
<i>Week Two</i> <i>Sept 1st - Sept 2nd</i>	Chapter 2 - Electronic Health Records, HIPPA, & HITECH: Sharing and Protecting Patients Health Information	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Sept 8th</i>
<i>Week Three</i> <i>Sept 8th - Sept 9th</i>	Chapter 3 – Patient Encounters and Billing Information	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Sept 15th</i>
<i>Week Four</i> <i>Sept 15th – Sept 16th</i>	Chapter 4 – Diagnostic Coding	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Sept 22nd</i>
<i>Week Five</i> <i>Sept 22nd – Sept 23rd</i>	Chapter 5 – Procedural Coding	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Sept 29th</i>
<i>Week Six</i> <i>Sept 29th – Sept 30th</i>	Chapter 6 - Payment Methods and Checkout Procedures	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Oct 6th</i>
<i>Week Seven</i> <i>Oct 6th – Oct 7th</i>	Chapter 7 – Health Care Claims Preparation and Transaction	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Oct 13th</i>
<i>Week Eight</i> <i>Oct 13th – Oct 14th</i>	Mid-Term			
<i>Week Nine</i> <i>Oct 20th – Oct 21st</i>	Chapter 8 – Private Payers/BlueCross BlueShield	Homework Assignment		Due <i>Oct 27th</i>
<i>Week Ten</i> <i>Oct 27th - Oct 28th</i>	Chapter 9 - Medicare	Homework Assignment		Due <i>Nov 3rd</i>
<i>Week Eleven</i> <i>Nov 3rd – Nov 4th</i>	Chapter 10 - Medicaid	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Nov 10th</i>
<i>Week Twelve</i> <i>Nov 10th – Nov 11th</i>	Chapter 11 - Tricare and CHAMPVA	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Nov 12th</i>
<i>Week Thirteen</i> <i>Nov 12th – Nov 13th</i>	Chapter 12 - Worker’s Compensation and Automobile/Disability Insurance	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Nov 24th</i>
<i>Week Fourteen</i> <i>Dec 24th – Nov 25th</i>	Chapter 13 - Claims Processing, Payments, and Collections	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Dec 1st</i>
<i>Week Fifteen</i> <i>Dec 1st – Dec 2nd</i>	Classroom work and Lab Review	Homework Assignment	Quiz	Due <i>Dec 8th</i>
<i>Week Sixteen</i> <i>Dec 8th – Dec 9th</i>	Final			Due Final

This Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

****Textbook assignments will be assigned in class***

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college career. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student that is needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to setup their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are only permitted to withdraw six times during their college career by State law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week Fall session is Oct 6, 2021. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week Fall session is December 2, 2021. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week Fall session is November 19, 2021.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention is very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.

Tardiness Policy: Students who are late more than 5 minutes may be counted Tardy by the instructor. Three tardies will equal one absence.

Class Activities: Course topics are introduced and discussed during classroom sessions. Additional group exercises and workbook activities are conducted throughout the class meetings. General, ongoing feedback for assessments and assignments will be conducted before and after the assigned due dates.

Course Communication Policy: I check my e-mail and course mailbox and discussion areas daily Monday through Friday. For any course related questions please email me through blackboard. I will respond to your phone call and e-mails within 24 hours or less. However, I may not always be able to respond to e-mails sent over the weekend until Monday Morning. I will be communicated changes in or new assignments within 48 hours. When leaving a message or e-mail please state your name and student id.

Cell Phone Use: Cell phone use is **strictly prohibited** during any lab/class session. Please keep in "silent" mode during lectures and be respectful of instructors and other students. Should you need to answer the call, please do so out of the classroom. Due to cheating in the past, we cannot allow any wireless devices to be on during the tests. In an emergency, you may be reached by: contacting Campus Police at 409-933-8403.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to conduct themselves a mature adult observing all college rules and classroom etiquette. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom. Use of **Camera and or Recording devices:** As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. **To**

show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor. Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording

Professionalism: Success in one's career is almost as dependent on professional behavior as on one's academic knowledge and abilities. Therefore, students are expected to exhibit professional behavior in the classroom as well as all activities with this course. Professional behavior includes:

- **Attends class is punctual-** The student attends every class period, arrives on time for class activities or informs the instructor in a timely manner of unavoidable situations that cause the student to be late or miss class.
- **Dependable-** the student meets assignment deadlines and follows through to completion of responsibilities.
- **Effective interpersonal and team skills-** The student relates well to people, shows respect to others, deals tactfully and effectively with others, influences as opposed to directs, provides constructive critics without altering others, negotiates or mediates when appropriate, exhibits openness to new ideas, and demonstrates a positive attitude.
- **Effective communication skills-** The student listens, speaks using correct grammar and without excess fillers. Example: Umm, you know, and like.
- **Ethical Conduct-** The student maintains honesty, integrity, and confidentiality of patient provider, fellow student and college information.

Plagiarism:

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Success Tips for Students:

- Read all assignments and understand requirements for completing assignment prior to coming to class.
- **Three Prior to Me:** The MA faculty encourages students to problem-solve, work as a team as well as utilize available resources. In order to develop these skills, we will employ the "**Three Prior to Me**" process. This means that before you contact the instructor with a course-related question, you must have attempted to find the information in three other places. For instance, if you are unsure about the meaning of a term used in the course, you would attempt to locate this information in three places prior to asking the

instructor. Hence, you might do a Google search for the term, ask a classmate, and refer to your textbook. Instructors will question you regarding what research methods you utilized to locate information on your own. This process is not meant to be a barrier to you, but instead to provide the following benefits:

- Preparation for the workforce.
- Increased research skills.
- Instructors will have more time to provide feedback and interact with students.

Success Tips for Students:

Interaction Expectations: Because this is an online course, all of the weekly allotted time (at least 6 hours) for this course will be spent interacting with course content via Blackboard primarily by completing weekly quizzes, posting responses to discussion prompts or group case studies, and by reviewing the Learning Module content.

Additionally, this means students must take more initiative for their own learning and employ good time management and organizational skills. Students also need to take more initiative in asking questions about anything they do not understand about the course, the content or graded assignments.

Useful Websites:

- Blackboard support: <http://com.parature.com>
- Student Resources: <https://www.com.edu/students>
- Library and Bookstore: <https://libguides.com.edu>
- Distance Education FAQs in Parature Knowledge Base: <https://com.parature.com>
- NetTutor: <https://www.com.edu/help-center>
- Disability Services: <https://www.com.edu/counseling/disability-services>
- Speaking, Reading, & Writing Center: <https://www.com.edu/srwc>