



MA OR CNA WHICH CAREER IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

MA

MEDICAL ASSISTANT



CNA

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT



Medical Assistants (MAs) and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) have distinct roles in the healthcare field, each with unique responsibilities and compensation.

Medical Assistant (MA) Job Duties:

Clinical Duties:

- Taking patient histories and vital signs.
- Preparing patients for examination.
- Assisting physicians during exams.
- Collecting and preparing laboratory specimens.
- Performing basic laboratory tests.
- Administering medications as directed by a physician.
- Performing electrocardiograms (EKGs).
- Removing sutures and changing dressings.

Administrative Duties:

- Scheduling appointments.
- Maintaining medical records.
- Billing and coding for insurance purposes.
- Handling correspondence, billing, and bookkeeping.

Working Environment:

- Clinics and Hospitals

Typical Work Day Hours

- Most MA's work 8hr shifts during standard business hours.

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Job Duties:

Clinical Duties:

- Assist patients with activities of daily living (ADLs) such as bathing, dressing, & eating.
- Take and record vital signs.
- Assist patients with mobility and transferring.
- Provide basic patient care under the direction of nursing staff.
- Monitor and report changes in patients' conditions.
- Help patients with toileting and incontinence care.

Supportive Duties:

- Ensure a clean & safe environment for patients.
- Assist with the preparation & transportation of patients for procedures.
- Provide emotional support to patients & families.

Working Environment:

- Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Assisted Living Establishments, and Home Healthcare.

Typical Work Day Hours

- CNA's may work 1st, 2nd or 3rd shifts

Median Annual Salary in Wisconsin (2024):

\$38,000 to \$42,000

Hourly Wage:

\$16 to \$20

Depending on experience, location, and the healthcare facility.

Median Annual Salary in Wisconsin (2024):

\$30,000 to \$34,000

Hourly Wage:

\$13 to \$17

Depending on experience, location, and the healthcare facility.