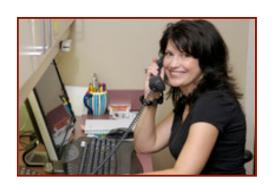# Certified Professional Coder

By passing the Certified Professional Coding Exam, students will become a Certified Professional Coder (CPC) which greatly increases job availablility.

All Medical billing/ Coding students are eligible to take this exam after the completion of the certificate. Any other Medical Assisting or Medical Office students can also sit for this exam after completing the certificates as well as taking the MOT 131, Advanced Billing/Coding course.

A Certified Professional Coder's abilities include but are not limited to:

- Proficiency in adjudicating claims for accurate medical coding for diagnoses, procedures and services in physician-based settings.
- Proficiency across a wide range of services.
- Sound knowledge of medical coding rules and regulations including compliance and reimbursement. A trained medical coding professional can better handle issues such as medical necessity, claims denials, bundling issues and charge capture.
- Knowing how to integrate medical coding and reimbursement rule changes into a practice's reimbursement processes.
- Knowledge of anatomy, physiology and medical terminology necessary to correctly code provider diagnosis and services (AACP).

The average salary for a CPC in 2009 was around $45,253. (AACP) This is considered a high demand career by Dept of Labor.

"It appears certified coders are more recession proof than others, that multiple specialty credentials improve your career, and that education, of course, adds to that benefit," Reed Pew, AAPC president