



All you want to know about Medical Coding

Satya Gopal Kalluri explains how Life Sciences students can learn medical coding and enjoy a job that combines knowledge of medical terminology and management with proficiency in English

Akash, a young boy from Tiruchirappalli wanted to be a researcher, so he took up BSc (Life Sciences) after class XII to follow his dream. As he began to understand the nuances of research, he realised that it may not be his cup of tea. At that point, he was uncertain of an alternative interesting career, and close to He stumbled the research upon medical arch coding that see-work he was asso-

ciated with. Life Science graduates in India often find themselves struggling, due to lack of requisite skills and limited knowledge of alternative careers. This is the reason that many graduates fail to secure a suitable job. Medical coding is fast emerging as an interesting and lucrative career for Life Science students.

MEDICAL CODING

Medical coding is the transformation of healthcare diagnosis, procedures, medical services, and equipment into universal medical alphanumeric codes. It is an important

process in the medical billing process and plays a vital role in the overall reimbursement cycle. It helps to ensure that healthcare providers are paid for all the services they render. Medical billers use these codes to submit claims to third-party payers while statisticians, researchers, public health officials, and internal auditors use these codes to determine what services were provided to patients, and why.

GROWING DEMAND

With business booming in the healthcare outsourcing industry, the demand for medical coders is also

rising exponentially. The adoption of new coding standards has led to more US-based healthcare clients looking to outsource these processes, and bring more business to the Indian BPOs. According to a joint study by Assocham and EY (India), India has emerged as the second largest destination after the US in the healthcare outsourcing space. The ability of the Indian players to analyse big data, discover hidden patterns and unknown correlations are making way for new jobs. With rising demand for better healthcare facilities and patient care in the US, the established medical and central lab infrastructure, and training

centres are contributing to the growth of healthcare and life sciences sector, thereby fueling the domestic demand for healthcare outsourcing in India. The healthcare industry is going digital with the rapid adoption of EHRs and EMRs, eliminating sizeable volumes of paperwork. This is pushing the outsourcing sector to hire specialists for core tasks in the Revenue Cycle Management process such as coding and billing.

(The author is VP- Technical Training, Quality and Operational Excellence Omega Healthcare Management Services)

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