

Newspaper in Education Presents

inquiziKidz

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE COUNTY'S MAGNET SCHOOLS & ADULT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

To Code
or Not to
Code?

Discover the Future

Careers:

Medical Coder

Medical Biller

Medical Assistant

Medical Record Coder

Medical Coding Specialists

Insurance Biller

Medical Reimbursement Specialist

Professional Organizations:

AAPC American Academy of Professional Coders

AHIMA American Health Information Management Association

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:

<http://www.khake.com/page42.html>

OR

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/careers.htm>



kidzbiz

A Second Career

Peter Theophilopoulos, a published author of children's books, is beginning a second career as a medical coder/biller. Peter entered the program at MTI



Peter Theophilopoulos

in August and will graduate in May 2006. The medical field is not new to Peter. He is a former respiratory therapist and his wife, Susan, is an R.N. at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. The only male in the program, Peter enjoys the collegiality and mutual respect of his colleagues. According to Peter, "they are a great bunch. We share teamwork and effort." Returning to school is not always easy for second career students. However, Peter's experiences at MTI have been gratifying and valuable. For him the courses are challenging and rewarding and "the teachers are excellent and always willing to help." Peter hopes to open his own business at home providing coding and billing services to medical providers. Working at home will afford Peter the time and flexibility he needs to spend time with his son Andrew. Peter is well on his way to another successful career in the health profession.

School biz

A second, second career

Teaching in the Medical Coder/Biller Program is Sherry Mashburn's second career. After working in the medical field for 30 years, four years ago she became an instructor in the MTI Medical Coder/Biller program. Students enter her program from a variety of backgrounds including the



Sherry Mashburn

Coast Guard, social work and the food and beverage industry and will graduate with the knowledge and skills they need to be professional medical coders/billers. Sherry is not your average instructor. She is a mentor and teacher extraordinaire teaching students how to use the latest medical software; creating relevant learning experiences through creative activities; inviting guest speakers to her class; and taking students on a multitude of learning field trips such as visiting workman compensation insurance companies and central billing offices. Mrs. Mashburn is passionate about teaching in her field, "I teach collaboration, teamwork, and how to work the many jobs in a physicians front office." Students in the program are fortunate to have such a devoted instructor.

Medical Coder/Biller

To code or not to code

The healthcare industry is a \$1.7 trillion dollar a year business with allied health care staff providing critical support to physicians in hospitals, nursing home and private practice settings. **Manatee Technical Institute** prepares allied health care staff in its Medical Coder/Biller Program. The one-year, 1,000-hour program teaches students core medical terminology, basic computer skills, pharmacology, and all the requisite skills to prepare them as entry-level coders and billers. Medical coders use coding terminology to transcribe information to medical reports, health information summaries and insurance forms. Medical coding is a language of numbers and coders assign a code to each diagnosis and procedure. Diagnosis codes are 3 – 5 digits and procedure codes are 5 digits. Medical billers facilitate the claim paying process. They prepare and process medical bills for health care professionals, hospitals, and outpatient care facilities and insurance companies. Both medical coders and billers need a thorough knowledge of medical terminology and anatomy.

Students do not need previous knowledge to enter the program at MTI. However, they must have a high school diploma or GED. Prior to graduating, students complete an 80-hour internship. To practice as medical coder/biller students must work in the profession for two years and pass a thorough exam receiving a Certification of Professional Coder. To renew their certification, every two years, students are required to complete continuing education units. This can be accomplished at national and local conventions as well as

though the local Manatee chapter of the American Academy of Professional Coders. The program at MTI is rigorous, creative and graduate students prepared for employment in a variety of well paying careers.



explore it

Decode the following. See if you can use clues in the paragraph, *A Coder's Nightmare*, to decode the diagnoses and procedures.

A Coder's Nightmare

You get up in the morning and you think, "It's going to be a great day," but once you get to work all the **784.0's** start. You turn on your computer and get ready to start coding, and the very first charge makes you **298.9** because what the doctor dictated is actually not the procedure that it was supposed to be. So you keep studying the report and then your vision becomes **368.9** so you put some drops in your eyes to hopefully clear them up and you start all over. But once again it starts all over and now you have **409.1** and if this keeps up you know you have to have a **71020**. We keep on plugging and eventually we start to get **715.95**. From sitting for long periods of time we get **455.6** and they become so painful that you will need to have a **46255**. At the end of the day you go home with a **784.09** and **780.79**, just knowing that it all starts over in the morning.



- 748.0 Headache
- 298.9 Unspecified psychosis (crazy)
- 368.9 Night blindness
- 401.9 High Blood Pressure
- 715.95 Osteoarthritis of the Pelvic Region and Thigh
- 755.6 Painful Hemorrhoids
- 784.0 Headache
- 780.79 Tiredness
- 71020 Chest X-Ray
- 76255 Simple Hemorrhoidectomy

Answers

InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in The Herald.
 Provided by Newspaper in Education, Kristin Lamphron, Education Manager (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031
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Manatee Technical Institute

- Sugg Middle School
- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harilee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz

Board



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