



By Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA

ISMA urges Indiana physicians to hire competent medical assistants

A resolution supporting medical assistants and CMAs (AAMA) was adopted by the House of Delegates of the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA) in September 2018. The resolution was introduced by William W. Pond, MD. Tammy Daily, CMA (AAMA), liaison to the ISMA from the Indiana Society of Medical Assistants, and I helped craft the final language of the resolution. The resolution adopted by ISMA reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 18-06 SUPPORT OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL ASSISTANTS

Introduced by: William W. Pond, MD
Fort Wayne Medical Society
Allen County

Action: Adopted

Whereas, physicians rely on an increasing number of health professionals to extend care. They include medical assistants, who perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of a physician, such as scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing and coding information for insurance purposes, taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood and administering medications as directed by a physician; and

Whereas, medical assistants benefit from training, certification and continuing education similar to other health professionals, such as certified nursing assistants (CNAs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), registered nurses (RNs), physician assistants (PAs), etc.; and

Whereas, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects medical assisting to grow at a faster rate than other occupations and professions through 2024; and

Whereas, under the auspices of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), certified medical assistants [pass] the certification examination that is the only medical assisting examination that utilizes the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) for test development, delivery, analysis and scoring, thus ensuring the highest level of psychometric quality; and

Whereas, the CMA (AAMA) Certification Examination is the only medical assisting credential for which candidates must be graduates of an accredited postsecondary medical assisting program that is at least one (1) academic year in length and that covers both the clinical and administrative aspects of medical assisting; and

Whereas, the CMA (AAMA) Certification Program is the only medical assist-

ing credential accredited by [both]: (1) the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA); and (2) the International Accreditation Service (IAS) under International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard 17024, a global benchmark for personnel certification programs, ensuring that they operate in a “consistent, comparable and reliable manner”; and

Whereas, CMAs (AAMA) must recertify every sixty (60) months by either retesting or continuing education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ISMA applauds efforts to bring uniform, consistent high quality to medical assistant training, certification and continuing education; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ISMA urge its members, Indiana physicians, and health care organizations to give preference in hiring to medical assistants who have demonstrated training, qualifications and continuing education such as those provided by Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) American Association of Medical Assistants [CMA (AAMA)] certification.

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