

## State of Washington Department of Health is implementing a new medical assisting law that becomes **effective July 1, 2013**

The new law will transition the health care assistant profession to medical assistant profession. In the process, the state of Washington will recognize four different classes of medical assistants, each with its own education, training and certification requirements:

1. Medical Assistant – certified (full scope of practice)
2. Medical Assistant – registered (limited scope of practice tied to an employer)
3. Medical Assistant – hemodialysis technician (doesn't apply to AMT certificants)
4. Medical Assistant – phlebotomist

**NOTE:** AMT-certified RMAs who are currently registered with the State as a Category C, D, E or F Health Care Assistant will automatically be “grandfathered” into the Medical Assistant-certified category **without the need to take another exam**. Going forward, only RMAs who have completed the formal training described below and have passed the RMA exam within five years of applying for a Washington Department of Health (DOH) certification will qualify for the Medical Assistant-certified category.

### **For those who already hold a health care assistant credential**

If an individual already holds a Category C, D, E or F health care assistant credential, the certification will AUTOMATICALLY transition to a Medical Assistant-certified credential. Individuals registered as a Category A or B health care assistant will be transitioned to the MA-phlebotomist registration. However, no category of health care assistant will automatically transition to the medical assistant-registered category. These individuals will have to reapply beginning July 1, 2013.

### **For those who don't already hold a health care assistant credential**

If an individual doesn't already hold a health care assistant credential, he/she will have to meet ALL of the following requirements for each credential:

#### Medical Assistant – certified

- Complete an accredited medical assistant training program (or military equivalent). Accepted programs are consistent with those required for AMT's RMA certification; however, DOH will not accept the 5-year OJT training route.
- Pass an approved examination **within five years of applying for DOH certification**. (The RMA examination qualifies.)
- Complete a DOH application and pay a fee.

#### Medical Assistant-registered

- Obtain an endorsement by a healthcare practitioner, clinic or group practice.
- Complete a DOH application, submit the attestation of endorsement and pay a fee.

#### Medical Assistant – phlebotomist

- Complete an accredited phlebotomy training program or qualifying in-service training program. (Those holding the RPT certification should have the requisite training.)
- Complete a Department of Health application and pay a fee.

For more information:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/MedicalAssistant.aspx>