

# Advantages of the CMA (AAMA) Credential

Healthcare employers want credentialed medical assistants who can work at the full extent of their scope. We're increasingly hearing from employers across the country – representing small clinics to systems with more than 10,000 employees – who are requiring their currently employed medical assistants to become certified; the CMA (AAMA) is their credential of preference. As a result, CMAs (AAMA) now number at 73,350.

Graduates who pass the CMA (AAMA) exam have impressive professional advantages you can promote to employers, including the following:

- The CMA (AAMA) is the only certification that limits eligibility to candidates who have completed a postsecondary, accredited medical assisting academic program. Other credentialing bodies permit an individual to take their tests without having any formal medical assisting education. Because “hands-on” psychomotor competencies cannot be measured by a paper-and-pencil or computer-based test, the mandatory education requirement distinguishes the CMA (AAMA) from all other medical assisting credentials. This provides employers, patients, malpractice insurance carriers, and third-party accrediting bodies such as the Joint Commission and the National Committee for Quality Assurance with tangible evidence that CMAs (AAMA) are knowledgeable about the multifaceted dimensions of the profession as well as competent in the clinical and administrative duties required in ambulatory care delivery settings.
- Physicians and other health care providers (such as nurse practitioners and physician assistants) can be held liable for negligent acts of their medical assistants or, in some jurisdictions, held liable for “negligent delegation” if they assign tasks to medical assistants who lack the necessary competence and knowledge. By employing CMAs (AAMA), employers can present powerful evidence that their hiring and delegation practices meet or exceed the legal standard. This evidence, in turn, can lessen the likelihood of a successful legal action against the delegating providers.
- The AAMA Certifying Board is the only medical assisting certifying body that uses the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) as the consultant for its certification examination. NBME is also the consultant for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and many physician specialty exams. CMA (AAMA) exam scoring metrics are processed by the same professional psychometricians who provide this service for USMLE candidates. As a result, the CMA (AAMA) exam is a highly valid and reliable indicator of the knowledge necessary to be a competent medical assistant.

## What You Should Know about the CMS Ruling on Meaningful Use

Employers need appropriately educated and credentialed medical assistants who can enter orders into computerized provider order entry (CPOE) systems for meaningful use purposes. AAMA Executive Director Donald A. Balasa, JD, MBA, played a significant role in working with CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) to assure that CMAs (AAMA) may perform entries into CPOE systems and have such entries count toward meaningful use.

Learn more about CMAs (AAMA) performing entries into CPOE systems for meaningful use on the [AAMA website](#).