

Highland News Leader

treatment modalities, and prognosis of diseases and procedures to be coded.

County job training program offering medical coding classes

If you have ever thought of a career as a medical coding professional, there may be training funds available to assist you. Madison County Employment and Training is partnering with St. Louis Community College and a major hospital to offer this training opportunity in a high growth occupation with good wages. The training funds will assist with tuition, fees, uniforms, and graduation costs. Career counseling will be provided and job placement assistance will also be available after graduation. Additional eligibility requirements do apply, and candidates will also be screened, tested and interviewed.

The medical coding professional (or coder) is responsible for translating healthcare provider's diagnostic and procedural phrases into coded form. Coding professionals do this by reviewing and analyzing health records to identify relevant diagnosis and procedures for distinct patient encounters. This translation process requires interaction with the healthcare provider to ensure terms are translated correctly. Coding professionals must possess a thorough understanding of the health record's content in order to find information or support or provide specificity for coding. Certified medical coders are trained in the anatomy and physiology of the human body and disease processes in order to understand the etiology, pathology, symptoms, signs, diagnostic studies,

The job entails much more than simply locating diagnostic and procedural phrases in the coding manuals or with encoder software. It requires knowledge of disease processes and procedural techniques to consistently apply the correct codes. A medical coding professional works as part of a team to achieve the best quality patient care. Medical coding professionals work in a variety of healthcare settings, including inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings and non-provider settings such as third-party payers and healthcare software vendors.

For those who are interested in pursuing this career pathway, more information may be obtained by contacting Madison County Employment & Training Department, East Alton Office at (618) 258-7171, ext. 226.