the national institute for
nimaa
medical assistant advancement

Frequently Asked Questions About NIMAA

What is the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA)?

NIMAA is a nonprofit educational institute that trains Medical Assistants to work effectively in today's high-performing primary care settings. NIMAA was created by community health centers to provide education and employment opportunities in the communities they serve, while addressing a growing demand for medical assistants.

NIMAA has national healthcare leaders as instructors, the latest on-line teaching tools, and offers concurrent clinical practice and experience in carefully selected externship clinic sites around the country. Finally, NIMAA prepares students to take a national certification exam of their choice prior to graduation. Graduates are positioned to command jobs that provide a living wage and advancement in the healthcare field.

Who is involved in NIMAA?

NIMAA is led by **Community Health Center, Inc.** of Connecticut and **Salud Family Health Centers** of Colorado, both recognized by the National Committee on Quality Assurance as Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Homes, using teams to provide comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health services. NIMAA has an a Advisory Board made up of experts in allied health training, primary care, workforce development, medical assisting and distance education. A growing group of team-based care practices from across the nation are joining as externship sites.

Why is NIMAA needed?

Today's leading primary care organizations are using integrated teams to deliver holistic, patient-centered care, with an elevated role for MAs. Medical assistants need collaborative and critical thinking skills and training in population management, patient panel management, and patient education to perform as effective members of these teams. Existing training programs for medical assistants have not kept up with the transformation in health care, and do not focus on primary healthcare. Most programs focus on training MAs for traditional administrative roles (e.g., billing, scheduling) and clinical support tasks (e.g., measuring vital signs, rooming patients, assisting with procedures) in hospitals or private medical offices.

How is NIMAA different than traditional MA programs?

NIMAA teaches students traditional MA skills, such as rooming patients, taking vital signs, and administrative responsibilities. However, NIMAA goes beyond traditional MA programs by teaching students collaborative and critical thinking skills for effective team based care, patient portal management, and patient health coaching.

What is the tuition for the NIMAA training program?

Traditional for-profit MA programs costs can exceed $15,000. NIMAA understands that quality education should be accessible, which is why the program cost, after tuition and fees, is under $7,000. There may be a possibility of scholarships or tuition assistance at some externship sites.

More Frequently Asked Questions About NIMAA

What is the demand for medical assistants?

▶ **The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 23 percent growth in demand for medical assistants from now through 2024, much faster than the average for all occupations.**

A strong national MA training program in primary care is a prerequisite for the successful transformation of the nation's healthcare system, so we believe the demand for the particular kind of training NIMAA uniquely offers will grow. Additionally, creating increased demand for the unique training model NIMAA offers.

What does it cost primary care practices to participate in NIMAA?

There is no monetary cost to NIMAA externship partners to participate. Externship partners commit staff time to coordination of the program and oversight of the student experience. Some externship partners choose to assist students with tuition, often in exchange for a committment to remain with the organization as MAs.

What does the NIMAA curriculum involve?

The curriculum includes an entire set of skills and courses for the medical assistant of the future. The curriculum has a heavy emphasis on communication skills with patients, including agenda setting, goal setting and self-management support. It covers all traditional subjects, including rooming patients, vital signs, and teach-back at the end of the visit. NIMAA-specific content addresses integrated team-based primary care, covering areas such as: working in an interprofessional team (understanding the different team roles and activities); understanding how the MA contributes to care coordination; learning approaches to health coaching and self-management support for patients, including motivational interviewing; understanding a population health perspective; and working with the team to address the needs of a large panel of primary care patients. Our curriculum provides instruction online, including synchronous video conference sessions with instructors.

The interactive online coursework combined with clinical experience from day one sets NIMAA apart from other online programs. Students have access to their instructors through Moodle, Zoom, phone, and email. Students also participate in a weekly video synchronous seminar with their instructor and classmates to discuss and breakdown topics.

What certificate or credential will graduates receive?/
What exams can the students take?

Graduates receive an industry-recognized certificate. NIMAA also prepares students to take one of the following certification exams:

• Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) offered through the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA)

• Certified Clinical Medical Assist (CCMA) offered through the National Healthcareers Association (NHA)

• Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) offered through the American Medical Technologists (AMT)

Is NIMAA Accredited?

NIMAA is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. NIMAA is a post-secondary school approved and regulated by the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Private Occupational School Board.

For more information, please see **www.nimaa.edu**
or Email us at **info@nimaa.edu**