



## Occupational Risks for Medical Assistant

Medical assistants work directly with providers and patients, with the goal of providing health care and ensuring patient safety. They can perform both administrative and clinical services, filling several roles in a variety of healthcare environments.

As with any healthcare position, there are certain occupational risks or hazards while performing their duties, including the following:

- Exposure to infectious diseases
- Sharps injuries
- Blood-borne pathogens and biological hazards
- Chemical and drug exposure
- Ergonomic hazards from lifting, sitting, and repetitive tasks
- Latex allergies
- Stress

Nevertheless, there are protections set up by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and those protections are particularly important within a healthcare environment. OSHA has a series of standards that protect the safety of healthcare workers and patients.

As an accredited program, West Georgia Technical College's Medical Assisting program teaches students about the hazards they face on the job and protocols that can be put into place to ensure a workplace culture that prioritizes safety.