



## Medical Transcriptionist

**M**edical Transcriptionists are healthcare professionals with an expertise in medical language. Medical Transcriptionists transcribe spoken words into comprehensive records that accurately communicate medical information. Medical transcription is the act of transcribing from oral to written form the record of a person's medical history, diagnosis, prognosis, and outcome.

The primary skills necessary for performance of quality transcription are extensive medical knowledge and understanding, sound judgment, deductive reasoning, and

ability to detect medical inconsistencies in dictation. The Medical Transcriptionist questions, seeks clarification, verifies the information, and enters it into the report.

Medical transcription requires a practical knowledge of medical language, anatomy and physiology, disease process, pharmacology, laboratory medicine, and internal organization of medical records. A Medical Transcriptionist is a medical language specialist who must also be aware of standards and requirements that apply to health records, as well as the legal significance of medical transcription.

## Medical Transcriptionist Facts:

### Where do medical transcriptionists work in Alaska?

Most Medical Transcriptionists are employed in doctors' offices, public and private hospitals, medical transcription businesses, clinics, laboratories, radiology and pathology departments, insurance companies, government medical facilities, veteran's medical facilities, and associated healthcare industries. Some Medical Transcriptionists choose to work at home as employees of transcription businesses; others provide services as independent contractors.

### Educational Requirements

- High school diploma or GED is required.
- Medical transcription certification is recommended, but not required.
- Some employers require specific college courses.

### Hourly Wage Range:

\$17.36-\$26.31 (Mean \$21.22)  
\*based on Alaska DOL data

### Years in School:

2 years or less (after high school graduation).

## Academic Programs in Alaska

Courses in medical transcription are available at:

**University of Alaska Anchorage**  
**Allied Health Programs, Medical Assisting Department**  
 Contact: Robin Wahto  
 Phone: (907) 786-6932  
 Fax: (907) 786-6938  
 Email: [afrjw@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afrjw@uaa.alaska.edu)  
 Web site: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/alliedhealth/academics/me-dassist/transcription.cfm>

## National Contact:

**For inquiries regarding careers and certification, contact:**

**The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity**  
 4230 Kiemann Avenue, Suite 130  
 Modesto, CA 95356  
 Phone: (209) 527-9620  
 Toll free: (800) 982-2182  
 Fax: (209) 527-9633  
 Email: [ahdi@ahdionline.org](mailto:ahdi@ahdionline.org)  
 Web site: <http://www.ahdionline.org/EducationTraining/New-MTTraining/BecomeanMT/tabid/209/Default.aspx>

