

# What is Allied Healthcare?



## Pathways to Well-Paying, Family-Sustaining Jobs

The allied health sector includes a wide range of clinical, administrative, and support positions, from radiologic technicians and laboratory workers to licensed vocational nurses and medical assistants to medical coders and health technologists. Their services are absolutely critical to the other health professionals they work with and the patients they serve. Allied healthcare offers pathways to many job opportunities with varying experience levels that will increase social mobility for workers. By providing employers with a flexible talent pool that reflects the communities they serve, businesses can scale and grow quickly as their needs shift.



## In-Demand Allied Healthcare Careers

Allied healthcare workers are in high demand. By 2024, California will need approximately 500,000 new allied healthcare workers, with an annual need of 65,000+ workers. Some of the top allied healthcare careers include:

### Medical Assistants

Training to become a medical assistant is a good starting point to launch and grow an allied healthcare career. The role of a medical assistant varies by employer but generally includes performing routine administrative and clinical tasks to keep the offices and clinics of physicians and specialists running smoothly. Administrative duties could include answering telephones, scheduling appointments, filling out and updating medical records, and processing billing. On the clinical side, medical assistants are often responsible for greeting and taking a patient's medical history, preparing patients for examination, and assisting the doctor during appointments.



### Medical Coders

If you're seeking a non-clinical career in allied healthcare, becoming a medical coder is a viable pathway to explore. Medical coders work in every type of healthcare facility and play a vital role among health care providers, patients, and insurance companies. It is the job of the medical coder to read a patient's medical chart, determine the diagnoses and procedures performed, and then assign a specific numeric or alphanumeric code so the health care facility receives proper reimbursement. A career path in medical coding requires excellent concentration and attention to detail, along with a solid understanding of medical terminology and anatomy. In addition, medical coders must stay up-to-date on the thousands of medical codes used, new rules and interpretations. Some experienced coders also have the option to work remotely on the job.



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## Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs)

Choosing a pathway to become a licensed vocational nurse (LVN), also referred to as a licensed practical nurse (LPN), is a step up the nursing career pathway. It is also a good opportunity for medical assistants to grow their healthcare careers and increase their earnings. Working under the supervision of a doctor or registered nurse, LVNs provide basic nursing care to individuals of all ages in a variety of health care facilities. The duties of an LVN vary by workplace and can include taking medical histories, monitoring blood pressure and vital signs, keeping patients' charts up to date, assisting patients in basic hygiene and personal care, and providing emotional support to patients.

## Health Information Technicians

Health information technicians manage, analyze and organize patient medical records and data ensuring its accuracy and security for statistical reports and studies. These technicians manage and maintain health information systems and ensure they meet medical, legal and ethical standards. Health information technicians are also responsible for updating software and developing networks and can track patterns of disease and treatment outcomes. Health information technicians work in hospitals, physicians' offices, nursing homes, clinics, and for home healthcare providers. This is a growing field and a non-clinical career option in allied healthcare.



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