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11/2/16

HSP1, Health informatics paper

Patient Accounting Technician

Ever since I was born my grandma has been a patient accounting technician.she started working for Pontiac osteopathic hospital. she worked there for about thirty-five years before it was bought out by Mclaren Oakland, where she finished her career. I remember all the times I went to her office to see her on breaks and get shown off to all of her friends. I remember the dusty window panes and the smell of coffee from the break room. When my grandma first started her job she loved it but as time went on she had a hard time keeping up with the new coding standards. When she first started working each day she received the hard copy charts in their office each day, but after about twenty years of working there everything was changed to electronic charts; which meant all of the coding was done online by medical record personnel. When my grandma started her job there was no college degree or certification required, you just received on the job training. When she started the job her responsibilities for the day were to separate the charts by insurance companies, then she read the chart,did the coding, and matched any kind of diagnosis to the chart. Once the claim was completed it was then mailed to the insurance companies.However her job responsibilities changed with the company and by the end of her years at POH she was responsible for the bills that were transferred into her queve by medical records, when she received it into her queve she then checked for any errors. If there were errors she had to correct them before sending it to the insurance company electronically. The balance of her day was spent working on mail sent to her. After she worked with the mail she was responsible for working accounts down until there was zero-balance. Which means after after the insurance pays for so much a patient also has a deductible and a co-pay that still needs paid, and that balance would have to either be transferred to a secondary insurance account or be self-paid. In my grandma's point of view she liked her job and the people she worked with but she didn't like how they were treated by her superiors.

The standards required when my grandma started working until now have changed drastically. The education to become a patient accounting technician is an Associate's degree, and then once you get the job you will have more training to get you trained on the new technology and systems they use. The amount of time it takes for you to obtain an Associates degree in about two years, depending on how many classes you take per semester. There aren’t many colleges that have a patient accounting program but one that does is Macomb Community College (M.C.C, 2016). There are four classes you are required to take before completing the course. The four classes include: Patient Access Services, Medical Billing, Billing Applications, And Patient Access Accounting Internship (M.C.C, 2016). An Accounting Technician is a professional who can work in diverse organizations, and whose role is to record the organization’s financial operations.Their job description entails revising and guaranteeing that all the financial records are accurate. They also offer support to experienced and competent accountants and direct issues and duties efficiently. People or workers in the office of an accounting technician are designated the responsibility of carrying out paraprofessional technical work concerning the reporting and maintenance of financial bookkeeping data. This job involves maintenance of proper ledgers, registers, accounts, journals as well as similar financial records. The candidate for this position will reconcile several financial documents, statements and process varied transactions for expense vouchers, preparation of routine or standard reports and maintenance and processing of payroll data with regards to financial data and operation. He/she will be required to code and classify expenditure and revenue for input into the designated accounting records. A patient accounting technician works in a hospital and normally sits at a desk and uses a computer. Most work a regular weekday schedule, but weekend and night-shifts are also available depending on the hospital and their rules (Husted,2016). The yearly earnings for a patient accounting technician varies but the average amount earned was $38,718. The range of salary every patient accounting technician makes is $27,663 - $52,115 (Payscale,2016).

 There are many things that interest me about a patient accounting technician such as the fact that my grandma was one, so I would have family background. But something that I don’t really like is how they are paid. After listening to my grandma talk about how hard her job was and how rude her bosses were to her it really pushed away any interest I had in this job. These people are hard-workers and they deserve a much better salary. Also it would be nice to only have to go to school for two years but in all honesty you're not getting much out of it. I’m the type of person that if I’m doing something I push myself to the full extent and I’m not going to settle for anything less, and I think taking this job would be settling. I would like to be somewhere fast paced, up and moving and an office job just isn’t for me. My grandma and I are a lot alike. For instance the job market we chose which is medical, but we differ in how far we want to push ourselves because my grandma settled and that’s just not something I want to do. I'm aiming for success and by doing so I will push myself past my breaking point and much farther than that so I get the job I've worked for and deserve.

Citation:

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