

NEWS RELEASE

Top career move for medical reception staff

Reception staff working in general practice throughout Queensland now have the opportunity to enhance their career prospects with a nationally accredited qualification in medical assisting.

The Certificate IV in Medical Practice Assisting (HLT 43307) was incorporated into the National Health Training Package in 2007.

The course was developed in collaboration with GPs, practice staff and practice nurses as an innovative solution to the workforce pressures facing general practice.

Course training coordinator Maralan Southern said training to become a Medical Assistant is ideally suited to administration professionals who are already working in a medical practice and looking to expand their skills.

"The next student intake is scheduled to begin in February 2012, but applications close on December 23 this year. I would urge anyone looking to upgrade their skills to contact me immediately for more information," Ms Southern said.

"The course is very flexible, you can continue to work while you study, and traineeship and apprenticeship subsidies are also available," she said.

Delivered via self-paced online learning modules, the course provides practical support and learning through on-the-job training and face-to-face clinical skills workshops and assessments.

The course has been designed to train general practice staff to perform a wide range of administrative and clinical assisting tasks required in the general practice setting.

"It must be emphasised though that Medical Assistants are actively and continuously supervised by a medical practitioner or practice nurse and are not required to make decisions regarding the care of patients," Ms Southern said.

"Rather, they help general practices to better manage patient demand. For example, they can free up practice nurses to spend more time on higher level patient services," she said.

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local and Healthfirst Training Australia jointly offer the qualification in Queensland.

For more details, contact the Student Registrar on 07 3630 7300 or email medicalassistant@mnbl.com.au.

ENDS

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Partners 4 Health Ltd (ABN 55 150 102 257), trading as the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local.

About Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local was established by GPpartners Ltd, the division of general practice located on Brisbane's north side, with support and involvement from a number of local organisations representing providers and users of primary care services.

On 1 July 2011, GPpartners Ltd transferred its programs, services and staff to the Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local, which became the first fully functional Medicare Local in Australia.

The Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local will work with health services and support the communities within Brisbane's northern suburbs, the Moreton Bay Regional Council and a small part of the Somerset Regional Council.

This region has an approximate population of 850,000 and is predominantly an urban region but also includes regional and rural areas in the far northern and western areas of the catchment.

The region includes the areas formerly covered by GPpartners Ltd and Moreton Bay General Practice Network, and aligns with the Metro North Local Hospital Network.

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