Top 5 Medical Transcription Myths:
Don’t Turn Down the Career Till You Know the Facts!
What’s medical transcription?
Medical transcription is the process of transcribing the notes dictated by a healthcare provider after a patient interaction. Every patient interaction results in notes from the care provider, and all of these notes need to be transcribed before they can be added to the patient’s medical record.

Here at Career Step we’ve been training **quality** medical transcriptionists for **over 20 years**. If you call employers to ask who they hire, many will tell you that Career Step is one of the (very) few schools that they’ll hire new grads from. So it’s safe to say we know a thing or two about the medical transcription job market.

As we talk to those interested in training for new careers, there are a few comments we hear over and over about why they believe medical transcription isn’t the career for them. While a medical transcription career is not for everyone, it’s important to make sure one of these **top 5 myths** isn’t the reason you’re still looking at different career options.

Top 5 Medical Transcription Myths:
*Don’t Turn Down the Career Till You Know the Facts!*
Myth 1: *Medical transcription is going the way of the dinosaurs. Doctors just do it themselves now.*

This myth has taken an especially strong hold with the shift to electronic medical records and the use of speech recognition technology. While technology is evolving, there is still definitely a need for medical transcriptionists.

Doctors are already stretched to the limit, and dictating their notes is much faster than typing them all out. With ballooning healthcare costs, healthcare facilities can’t afford to pay doctors to be their own medical secretaries, which is why many practices and healthcare systems are switching to speech recognition systems.

Speech recognition software creates medical reports from the care provider’s dictation; however, with the complexity of medical terminology, this technology cannot match the accuracy of a well-trained medical transcriptionist. **There will always be a need** for a medical transcriptionist to review and edit these software-generated reports. As more healthcare systems switch to using speech recognition software, medical transcription companies are more and more interested in finding professionals who have the traditional medical transcription skill set in addition to the ability to efficiently edit these reports.
There are two types of medical transcription employers. You can either work directly for a hospital or doctor’s office (usually on-site) or you can work for a large company that specializes in medical transcription. These large companies are called medical transcription service organizations or MTSOs, and they handle the vast majority of medical transcription work in the United States. These companies are usually large national operations that hire medical transcriptionists from all over the country to work remotely from their homes.

Since the majority of medical transcription work is done by national companies that hire medical transcriptionists regardless of where they live, it doesn’t matter what your local job market for medical transcriptionists looks like—if you have the skills to be a good medical transcriptionist you can work from anywhere you have a secure internet connection.
Myth 3: You don’t need extra education to be a medical transcriptionist—as long as you can type well, you’re good to go.

Anyone who’s heard a real doctor dictation knows this one isn’t true. Not only do medical transcriptionists need to be able to understand complicated medical terminology, they also need a basic understanding of anatomy, pharmacology, and healthcare documentation as well as the ability to make out what mumbling or distracted doctors or those who don’t speak English as their first language are saying. In order to be successful as a medical transcriptionist you definitely need specialized education, which typically takes about 6 to 12 months.

When choosing a training program, it’s important to pick one that thoroughly covers all of the medical knowledge you’ll need in addition to including a lot of real dictation files so you can get lots of practice before graduation. There is no substitute for learning by doing when it comes to transcription. You have to develop your “listening ear,” and the best way to do that is by practicing on files just like those you’ll encounter in the workplace.
Myth 4: *I want to work from home, but it’ll be years before that’s even a possibility.*

Since most medical transcription work is handled through MTSOs, there are actually many more opportunities to work from home than there are to work on site as a medical transcriptionist. Many MTSOs are very hesitant to hire new graduates, often requiring at least 2 years of experience for new hires. However, some schools are trusted above others—like Career Step—and graduates of these programs are usually hired right out of school.

At Career Step, 90% of our Medical Transcription graduates who start working after graduation work from home in their very first position. The 10% who don’t work from home often do so by choice rather than need; they choose to take an on-site position because they’d rather be in that environment. Career Step has also worked closely with MTSOs to develop the pre-employment tests they use to screen new applicants—which means our graduates are uniquely prepared to do well on these exams. With the right education, working from home right away as a medical transcriptionist is a very real possibility.
Myth 5: If I’m working at home, I need special software or equipment to be a medical transcriptionist.

This myth is a good way to spot a scam. If you’re researching a company that tells you that you need to purchase their equipment or software and then they’ll set you up with your very own, prosperous medical transcription business, RUN the other way!

In order to be a medical transcriptionist you definitely need to take a job-specific education program, but once you’re employed your employer will provide you everything you need to do your job.

Medical transcription is one of the most viable work-at-home careers out there, and it has a bright future. As long as you choose a school with a training program specifically designed to prepare you for the realities of the medical transcription workplace by offering employer-trusted training, you can be well on your way to a successful work-at-home medical transcription career.
Top 5 Reasons to Choose

Our entirely online Medical Transcription training is among the top in the nation for many reasons:

1. **Employer-trusted training** – What better recommendation than that of the companies that actually hire for the position you’re training for? Our training is trusted and recommended by hundreds of employers nationwide.

2. **Experienced instructors** – Your instructors have years of experience actually working as medical transcriptionists, and you’ll have one-on-one access to them by phone, email, and chat every step of the way. It’s like having your own private tutor.

3. **Practical experience** – The best way to make sure you’ll be an excellent medical transcriptionist is with lots and lots of practice. Our training includes over 1300 real reports (provided by employers) to give you lots of hands-on experience before graduation.

4. **Placement help after graduation** – Making the transition from education to employment can be tricky, but with our placement resources over 91% of program graduates are working as medical transcriptionists! As a graduate you’ll have access to resources such as a list of companies that hire new graduates (over 900 have hired program grads in the last few years), resume help, interview training, and more.

5. **Affordable tuition** – Even though our program ranks among the very best medical transcription training programs, we’re also among the most affordable. We’re priced significantly less than our competitors that are the closest match in terms of quality.

Get Started Today!

Call a Career Step Academic Advisor at 1-800-411-7073 or visit CareerStep.com/medical-transcription