

HOW TO RECOGNIZE INDUSTRY SCAMS

BILLING AND CODING SCAMS

- Medical billing and coding is a booming industry, and more than a few people are trying to take advantage of people's desire to start in the field
- If you've searched for medical billing and coding online, chances are good you've seen a scam or two promising quick, easy employment while working from home
- This course will help you pick out scams and avoid them

IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT IS

- Many scams offer professional billing and coding training in a month or two
 - As you can see from the previous courses, there's **no way** you could learn how to do all of this in under 30 days
- You should **expect your training to take at least six months** (in an accelerated certificate program), and **probably a year or more** (certificate or associate's degree)
- The length of time a program takes to complete should be your first tip off to a scam
 - If it's under six months, **don't bother**

WORKING FROM HOME

- It's **the ultimate carrot:** make \$30K-plus a year working from your kitchen!
 - Unfortunately, it's totally unrealistic
- Only coders with **extensive resumes** and **loads of professional references** get to a position where they can work at home
 - You'll most likely start coding in-house at a practice, hospital, or another coding service

WORKING FROM HOME CONT.

- Billers and coders handle loads of sensitive information every day, and are **integral in the monetary life of a medical practice**
 - Why would a provider entrust those responsibilities to someone with no prior experience, who doesn't even work at their office?

WORKING FROM HOME CONT.

- Another common “work-from-home” scam is the offer to **start your own coding business**
 - These programs offer training, software, and a professional network to get you started
- In reality, **only coders/billers with years (often decades) of experience** have the contacts and skills to start their own at-home business
- Avoid any and all services that say you’ll be able to work from home right away. It’s just not going to happen.

OTHER WAYS TO SPOT A SCAM

- Look for affiliation with an **established professional organization**
 - AAPC, AMBA, AHIMA
- Look for **accreditation** in instructional programs
- Check with the **Better Business Bureau (BBB)**

AVOID SCAMS

- Look at how long the program takes
 - If it's less than six months (preferably a year), it's not worth your time
- Avoid any and all programs that promise work-from-home opportunities right off the bat
- Check if the program is affiliated with a professional organization
- Check if the program is accredited
- Check with the BBB
- The **best way to avoid a scam** is by going to a traditional program, like a community college or trade school