

Maximizing Your Career Potential With Practice Management Credentials

In addition to onsite and online undergraduate and graduate programs in healthcare administration and management, there are a number of programs that offer certification and registration (both terms meaning the same thing) for career healthcare managers.

When researching programs, some questions you should ask are:

1. **How long** has the program been in existence?
2. **How many** people have been credentialed through the program?
3. What are **prerequisites** (education, experience, references, other)?
4. Does the program have an **education component** in the form of mentoring, coaching, conferences, webinars, online classes, or in-person classes? Cost associated with each?
5. **What information** is covered in the exam? How can I learn this information?
6. **What is the exam format** (objective, essay, interview, presentation, other)?
7. **What is the exam media** (paper & pencil, online at home, online at testing center, other)
8. **What are costs** if the exams have to be repeated?
9. Do you have **any data** about the earning power or success of those credentialed through your program versus those from other programs?

American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)

Cost: Membership requires a Bachelor's degree. Annual dues are tiered and escalate from \$150/year to \$325/year over five years. Fellow exam is \$450, recertification is every three years.

- Fellow American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE)

American College of Medical Practice Executives (ACMPE)

Cost: The education arm of Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), \$275 annually (one-time \$95 application fee), knowledge assessment \$95, Body of Knowledge Review \$29 each domain, exam workbook \$119, objective exam \$165, essay exam \$165

- Certified Medical Practice Executive (CMPE)
- Fellow American College of Medical Practice Executives (FACMPE)

American College of Physician Executives (ACPE)

Cost: Membership \$280/year, Master's degrees for physicians only

- University of Massachusetts, Amherst (online part-time MBA)
- University of Southern California (Master of Medical Management)
- Carnegie Mellon University (Master of Medical Management)

International Association of Registered Health Care Professionals (ARHCP)

Cost: \$120/year for membership, \$385 per exam

- Registered Medical Manager (RMM)
- Registered Medical Coder (RMC)

Physician Office Managers Association of America (POMAA)

Cost: Annual membership \$110, study guides \$100 each, exams \$275 each

- Certified Practice Manager (CPM)
- Medical Coding Specialist (CPM-MCS)
- Human Resource Specialist (CPM-HRS)

Practice Management Institute (PMI)

Cost: \$799 – \$999 for each program and exam – program available in-person, online or self-study. Annual recertification \$75/year

- Certified Medical Office Manager (CMOM)
- Certified Medical Compliance Office (CMCO)
- Certified Medical Insurance Specialist (CMIS)

Professional Association of Health Care Office Management (PAHCOM)

Cost: \$195/year membership, study guide \$150, practice test \$150, exam \$385, recertification every 2 years \$75

- Certified Medical Manager (CMM)

The American Academy of Medical Management (AAMM)

Cost: \$378/year membership – certification is available with or without exam for \$259, recertification is \$179 every 3 years

- Certified Medical Staff Recruiter (CMSR)
- Certified Administrator in Physician Practice Management (CAPPM)
- Executive Fellowship in Practice Management (EFPM)
- Physician Fellowship in Practice Management (PFPM)
- Fellowship in Medical Staff Development (FMSD)

You may also want to read an earlier post on Manage My Practice: “How Does One Become a Medical Practice Manager?” and read the other posts in the Category : A Career in Medical Management by clicking on the category on the sidebar to the right.