


# Why Do People Choose Medical Office Management?

by Terri Williams, Demand Media 



*Medical office managers are in high demand.*

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Health care is one of the fastest-growing industries in the country. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care and social assistance industry will increase by 33 percent, or 5.7 million new jobs, through 2020. In fact, this industry will produce 28 percent of all new jobs created through the end of the decade. Health care jobs require individuals who can effectively and efficiently manage health services. Those with the skill set and desire to meet this challenge will find medical office management a rewarding career choice.

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## **Promising Job Outlook**

Demand for the average U.S. occupation will increase by 14 percent through 2020, the BLS predicts. But medical and health services managers will experience a 22-percent increase in demand for their services. Some 303,000 people work as medical and health services managers, and by 2020, another 68,000 new managers will join the market. By comparison, demand for human resource managers will increase by just 13 percent through 2020, while administrative services managers and training and development managers will only experience a 15-percent increase in demand for their services.

## Competitive Salary

Medical and health services managers also enjoy a lucrative salary relative to others. The average American worker earned \$45,790 a year, according to May 2012 salary data from the BLS. But the annual mean wage for medical and health services managers was \$98,460, higher than the \$88,660 earned by administrative services managers, the \$64,460 paid to social and community service managers and the \$63,570 annual salary of property and real estate managers.

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## Job Variety

Medical and health services managers wear many hats and enjoy a variety of job duties. Dorothy Thompson, practice administrator for Carolina Medical Consultants in Rock Hill, S.C., says, "Among other things, we're accountants, human resource representatives, budgeters and shoppers for deals. You'll never be bored in this job." Pam Lewis, chair of the Professional Association of Health Care Office Management, agrees: "In our office we like to say that every day is like a snowflake -- each one is very different."

## Job Fulfillment

Medical and health services managers find fulfillment in knowing that they're solving problems and making a difference. Lewis, who's also the practice manager at innerQuest Psychiatry and Training in Asheville, N.C., states, "We're also compliance officers who make sure that our office is up to current regulations, we negotiate contracts with insurance companies and the new providers being hired and we train the staff on new computer software." By providing day-to-day management, medical and health services managers ensure their organizations' focus. Terri Johnson, practice manager of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Associates in Hamilton, Ohio, says, "I like the fact that I get to create policies, match people to jobs and help people in doing so. We allow physicians to be able to concentrate on treating patients."

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**About the Author**

Terri Williams began writing professionally in 1997, working with a large nonprofit organization. Her articles have appeared in various online publications including Yahoo, USA Today, U.S. News & World Report University Directory, and the Center for Digital Ethics and Policy at Loyola University Chicago. Williams has a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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