

MA111 Medical Assisting Lab I

Critical Thinking 2

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Date:

1. What are the components of a physical examination?

The components of a physical examination are inspection, the provider uses observation to assess the patient's physical features; palpation, the provider uses the sense of touch; percussion, the provider taps the body using his fingers or a small hammer; auscultation, the provider uses a stethoscope to listen to sounds from the body; mensuration, the provider takes measurements in cases with wounds or of the uterus during pregnancy; and manipulation, the provider test the range of motion of a part of the body.

2. Identify some barriers to communication and how does this impact the patient assessment?

Some communication barriers include age, culture, religion, and physical barriers such hearing impairment. If there is not a clear understanding by either the medical assistant or the patient then the patient is not receiving the best care. The patient may not understand a block of instruction or the medical assistant may not understand what the patient is trying to say.

3. What is the medical assistant's role in preparing and assisting with the physical examination?

The medical assistant's role in the physical exam is to first prepare the exam room by making sure to lay out the equipment needed for the exam and that the room is fully stocked. The MA will obtain the patient's vitals, height and weight, and interview the patient. The MA will also assist the provider during the physical exam by helping the patient get into the correct position for the exam, hand the provider the requested equipment, and assist with the collection of specimen and labeling the specimen.

4. Identify 5 instruments used in the physical examination and what are they used for?

Five instruments that are used in a physical exam include an otoscope for inspecting the external ear canal and tympanic membrane, a stethoscope for auscultation of the heart and lungs, a reflex hammer to test joint reflexes, an ophthalmoscope to inspect the eyes, and a tuning fork to test auditory acuity.

5. Why is documentation in the medical record such an important part of preparing the patient for a physical examination?

Documentation in the medical record is important because the notes tell the provider a brief history of the patient such as the reason for the patient's visit and any concerns they may have. Documenting the patient's vitals also tells the provider the health status of the patient. Documentation is also the written proof that the patient received treatment.

6. Why is it important for the medical assistant to do a short inventory of each examination room at the end of the day and replace supplies as needed after each patient examination?

To be prepared for any procedure that is required for the physical exam. Having an exam room fully stocked will make the patient's exam go smoothly instead of having to stop in the middle of the exam to get more supplies. Having rooms that are not fully stocked may give the facility an unprofessional impression.

7. Why is it important for a medical assistant to be in the room when a female patient is being examined by a male physician or a male patient is being examined by a female physician?

Having a chaperone that is the same sex as the patient may help the patient feel less awkward about the exam. Also having a chaperone provides protection for both the patient and the provider against lawsuits.