

MA-111 Medical Assisting Lab I

Critical Thinking 3

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1. Explain the chain of custody and why it is important.

The chain of custody is chronological documentation and paper trail that records the custody or hands it has been transferred to, to gather the results. It shows the collection, transfer, receipt, analysis, storage, and disposal of the sample. A good example of something that would have a chain of custody would be a urine sample being screened for drugs or alcohol. This documentation is important because these results could be used in a court of law against someone. Also knowing where the sample came from, where it was processed, and who processed it are key elements to the chain of custody.

2. Dr. Jones has a permit to perform CLIA-waived tests in his medical office. What is meant by a CLIA-waived test?

CLIA_ waived test means Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments. This is quality standards for laboratory testing performed on human specimens, like blood, urine, tissue, or bodily fluids. For the prevention, treatment, diagnosis, or assessing someone's health. For example, drawing a blood sample from a patient to see what their kidney function is. Know what the kidney function for a patient would be able to tell you what the patient needs to do to prevent a kidney stone, or disease.

3. What is the difference between quality assurance and quality control?

Quality assurance is when you have a system of checks to make sure procedures are being done right or to the specifications of the clinic or facility. Also assures that employees are working to the best of their abilities and aren't abusing their job. An example of this is looking at a person's chart that they don't take care of. Quality control is another system of checks to make sure that equipment in the medical office is working and doesn't need to be fixed. Quality control checks should be performed depending on the type of machine or device. Computers should be checked every day to make sure they are running right. Same with ECG machines or laboratory equipment. Things like the fire extinguisher should be checked monthly.

4. The microscope in the laboratory does not focus as it should. You are the medical assistant who needs to use this equipment. What should you do for repairs?

If you come across a microscope that isn't working to the best of its ability, you should make out a work order slip, and notify your manager to let them know. Then try to find another microscope to use or ask your manager what to do. You never want to try and use equipment that is broken or defective because you won't get accurate results.

5. What are the problems that could occur if the incorrect medical record is used for documentation? What are potential legal implications?

The problems that could come from using the incorrect medical record is you have charted on the wrong patient and put another patient's information and diagnosis in their chart. The problems that come from this is that the one patient is going to be diagnosed wrongly and may be put on medications for a disease they don't have. And the other patient that could need the medication won't get it because the diagnosis isn't in their chart and the doctor doesn't know they have anything wrong with them. The legal implications with this are big. Your employer could be sued from both parties and lose his license. You could lose your license too. And the biggest impact this could have is that a patient could die from taking medications they didn't need. Or even die from not getting the medications that they needed.

