

MA 111 Medical Assisting Lab

Critical Thinking Week 1

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Date:03/04/2020

1. Why is it important to remove patients from the waiting room with acute infections as soon as possible after they arrive?

It is important to remove patients from the waiting room with acute infections as soon as possible so that you don't get the other patients sick that are waiting in the waiting room too. You also want to make sure you clean the area that the sick patient was in so the germs from that patient don't get spread to another.

2. Differentiate between sanitation, disinfection and sterilization.

Sanitation reduces the number of germs but doesn't not kill them. Disinfection kills some but not all, the rest are rendered inactive. Sterilization is the complete destruction of microorganisms.

3. Why would a temperature taken oral, rectal and axillary not have a common value of 98.6°

Temperatures taken in different parts of the body will not have the same value. Different parts of the body are warmer than others. For example, rectal will be higher, than oral, rectal is also considered the most accurate. Axillary is under the arm, in the arm pit.

4. Describe the difference between medical asepsis and surgical asepsis.

Medical asepsis is the destruction of disease-causing organisms after they leave the human body. An example of medical asepsis is cleaning a room after a patient comes in that has had the flu, wiping down surfaces, and equipment used on the patient. Surgical asepsis is the destruction of organisms before entering the body. An example of this would be sterilizing instruments for surgeries, so no organisms get into the human body from a dirty instrument.

5. Working at a medical practice, you are accidentally stuck with a contaminated needle.

What does the practice need to do to comply with OSHA standards?

If you accidentally get stuck with a needle you need to immediately report it to your supervisor. Then fill out the necessary paperwork. Then you will need to have your blood drawn to make sure you didn't catch anything from the dirty needle. The clinic will then have to ask the patient to have their blood drawn to make sure they don't have anything that has been given to the worker that got stuck with the needle.

5. Why is it important for a medical assistant to obtain height and weight measurements on patients at each visit to the medical office?

It is important to make sure you get a height and weight on a patient for every visit to make sure they are not losing or gaining large amounts of weight at a time. If a person loses or gains a lot of weight in a week period it might be a sign that there is something wrong with them.

6. Describe proper handwashing technique, when should we wash and when is it appropriate to use alcohol based hand sanitizer?

Proper hand washing technique is having the water warm, rinse your hand, use a nail cleaner, then use soap and rub your hands together for the time it takes you to sing your ABC's, rinse and dry. You should wash your hands when they are visibly dirty or entering a patient room. You can use alcohol-based hand sanitizers when entering and exiting the room, but not if your hands are visibly dirty.

7. Why is it improper to make a diagnosis of hypertension using only one blood pressure reading?

It is improper to say someone has hypertension after only obtaining one high blood pressure reading because the patient might be nervous and that's why their blood pressure is high. MA are to never diagnose any patient at any time. For the provider to diagnose a patient with hypertension they would have to take their blood pressure at home, twice a day for a couple of weeks, and then bring the recordings of the blood pressure into the office for the provider to look at.