

MA 111 Medical Assisting Lab

Critical Thinking Week 1

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

The medical assistant should remove patients from the waiting room with acute infections immediately after they arrive so the infection does not spread to the other patients in the same waiting area via being airborne.

2. Differentiate between sanitation, disinfection and sterilization.

Sanitation reduces the number of microorganisms to a safe level as dictated in public health guidelines while disinfection kills pathogenic organisms or rendering them inactive for a period of time. Sterilization: the destruction of all microorganisms and is necessary for surgical asepsis

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

When taken orally, the value of 98.6 would be of normal reading. Rectally, the reading of 98.6 would be 98.6-1 and when taken axillary, the reading would be 98.6+1 because the reading was not taken in an enclosed body cavity

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

Medical asepsis is the destruction of disease-causing organisms after they leave the body and surgical asepsis is the destruction of disease-causing organisms before they have entered the body.

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?

The medical assistant needs to report the incident immediately, dispose of the contaminated needle properly, and seek the proper medical treatment based on company policy.

6. 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 for the medical assistant to obtain height and weight measurements on each patient during every visit because the provider may need to implement a course of treatment if the patient is becoming overweight or is not growing properly.

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

Proper hand washing needs to be done at the beginning and end of every medical procedure. OSHA standards dictate that medical assistants need to wash their hands for a minimum of 15 seconds. The only time is appropriate to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer is when proper hand washing is not accessible or before touching a patient in between procedures.

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

To properly diagnose hypertension, a patient's blood pressure should be tracked for a period. The patient needs to take their blood pressure at the same time every day with the same size cuff. Just using one blood pressure reading would not provide a proper diagnosis.