

MA211 Medical Assisting Lab III

Critical Thinking Questions Week 1

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1. Why do drugs not have the same effect on all patients? What part does age play?

There are many different factors that can affect the way medication reacts in a person's body. A human's weight plays a large role in the way medications affects a patient. A child's body absorbs and excretes medications differently than an adult's body does. When administering and preparing medication for children, the dose is typically determined by the weight of the child that will be receiving the medication. It is important to weigh the child before each visit and carefully document the weight in the patient chart before administering any medications. Your metabolic rate tends to slow down with age, which results in chemical buildup in the body that can lead to toxic conditions.

2. Why is it important to include the name of all medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications, in the documentation of drugs in the medical record of each patient?

Many patients do not tell their PCP of the OTC medications they may be taking at home because they don't realize the importance of the medication. It is important to know exactly what your patient is intaking whether it be herbal, OTC, or a simple home remedy. Many medications have potential negative chemical reactions with one another and are not safe to take together. By keeping an accurate and up to date list in a patient chart, you can help prevent any potential medication errors. Educating patients on the effects of mixing medications without your providers approval is important in the safety of your patients.

3. Name some examples of therapeutic classifications of medications and compare the side effects.

Medications are divided into different groups that are defined by their therapeutic effect on the body. A few examples of the different groups are analgesics, antibiotics, and antidepressants. Analgesics are used to temporarily relieve or pain and are also known as pain relievers. An example of an analgesic would be a medication commonly known as Tylenol. Antibiotics are used to treat infections, such as bacterial infections, fungal infections, and some parasites. Antibiotics target and destroy any unwanted or harmful bacteria found. It is very important to take antibiotics exactly as prescribed. Taking them incorrectly can result in tolerance to the medication. After taking antibiotics for a long

period of time they start to kill the natural flora on the body which can result in skin infections such as a yeast infection. Lastly, antidepressants are used to alleviate depression and anxiety by correcting chemical imbalances in the brain. There are many different antidepressants that have different effects. Finding the right and most effective antidepressant is tricky where they affect everyone very differently. One person may need to try several different antidepressants before they find one that works well for them.

4. Why is it important to check medications carefully prior to administration, especially parenteral medications?

It is very important to check medications carefully prior to administration. By checking medications thoroughly, you can help prevent any medication errors. Whenever you prepare a medication to be administered you always want to compare what you have prepared to the order the provider provided. There are three checks required before administering any medications to a patient. First, check the medication when it is pulled from storage. Next, you want to check it when you are preparing it. Lastly, check the medication when you are returning it back to storage. Not checking the medication carefully prior to administration could be life threatening to the patient. This can result in administering the wrong medication, dose, route, and strength. Because parenteral medications are invasive and are rapidly absorbed into the body, it is especially important to check the medication carefully before injecting.

5. What forms of medication are appropriate for oral administration? What form is appropriate for injectable administration? What form can be used for transdermal administration?

Each route requires different forms of medication. Oral medications are made into two different forms such as liquids and solids. Liquids include syrups, suspensions, emulsions, gels, tinctures, and elixirs. Solids include tablets, capsules, and lozenges. Injectable medications must be sterile and in a liquid form, therefore can be injected into the body with a sterile needle or syringe. Transdermal medications are drugs that are absorbed through the skin. Transdermal medications typically come in patches but also come in creams, lotions, and ointments.

What are the rules of medication administration?

The rules of safe medication administration include following the seven rights of drug administration. The seven rights include:

1. The right patient- The patients should be identified prior to administering by his or her full name and their date of birth.
2. The right medication- Always make sure the doctors order is clear and compare the doctors order to the medication label.

3. The right dose- Always check your own calculations, and if there is any doubt about the accuracy of the dose, always have another medical assistant or provider double check.
4. The right route- Check the providers order to clarify the route of administration.
5. The right time- Most medications in primary care are ordered on a one-time basis. But it is always important to double check the time if there is one.
6. The right technique- If unsure how to administer a medication, always ask for help.
7. The right documentation- Immediately after administering a medication, document the time and date, the drug, strength, dose, route, why the medication is being administered, any reactions, and if you educated the patient about the drug. Also, when administering an injection, don't forget to document the manufacturer, lot, expiration date, and site the medication was injected into.

Medical Assisting 3

Syllabus Quiz

Erica Smith

1. When is late work accepted?

Late work will not be accepted after the due date. Which is the beginning of class a week after it has been assigned.

2. What components are involved in determining the professional development grade?

Dependability, character, initiative, appearance, competence, organization, communication, teamwork, attitude, respect, time management, detail oriented, conduct, empathy, confidentiality, responsible, courtesy, accountability, active listening, follow lab guidelines.

3. What is the conduct policy for Beal College?

Unable to find on syllabus.

4. What is expected for learning activities and assignments?

It is expected that for each hour of class there will be 2 hours of homework. It is also expected that most of the documentation (SIMS) will be done outside of the lab and lab time is needed to complete all skills assigned.

5. When are extra points offered?

No extra points or credit can be given.

6. How many competencies do you have to complete in order to pass this course?

There are 41 competencies that need to be completed by the students in order to pass this course.

7. What can you expect if 1 (one) error is found in a review skill?

If one error is found in a review skill, regardless of significance, you will have to restart the skill starting at 89%.

8. In what week will we be covering Microbiology and performing smears, cultures and gram staining.

In week 4 we will be covering Microbiology and performing smears, cultures and gram staining.

9. In what week are we covering Neurology and mental health.

In week 7 we will be covering Neurology and mental health.

10. What is the expectation for professionalism?

It is expected that you present yourself in lab as you would in your workplace. This includes punctuality, dependability and initiative. Professional clothing and language is expected at all times.