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?
   A patient with an acute infection should be removed from the waiting room as soon as they arrive to help decrease the risk of exposing any other patients to the infection the patient has. This allows the providers office to stay as safe as possible and decrease the chances of the infection passing to others. The waiting area should be cleaned and wiped down once the patient has been roomed.

2. Differentiate between sanitation, disinfection and sterilization.
   Sanitation is the cleaning process that reduces the numbers of microorganisms to a safe level. This removes debris such as blood and other body fluids from instruments or equipment. Your hands are one thing that need to be sanitized often in the medical field. It should be done right after using an instrument to prevent cross contamination of clean instruments.

   Disinfection is the process of killing pathogenic organisms or rendering them inactive. A 1 to 10 bleach solution can be used. It is not always effective against spores, tuberculosis bacilli and certain viruses. Disinfection should occur on the examination tables, counters, the bathrooms. They are never to be used on the skin.

   Sterilization is the process of destruction of all microorganisms. It is essential for surgical asepsis. Sterilization needs to be done for all surgical procedures. On all surgical instruments This needs to be done on any instrument that is going to come in contact with non-intact skin, or mucous membranes. Some examples of items needed to be sterilized are forceps, implanted medical devices. This is done to eliminate the risk of infection. There are 4 methods used to sterilization. A combination of heat, chemicals, ultraviolet radiation, gas vapor sterilant, chlorine dioxide gas are a few.

3. Why would a temperature taken oral, rectal and axillary not have a common value of 98.6° .
   A temperature taken axillary would have a lower reading from an oral temperature because it is not taken in an enclosed body cavity. A tympanic, rectal, and temporal artery temperature are approximately 1 degree higher than an oral temperature. The axillary temperature is taken under the arm pit outside the body cavity. You should always indicate the site the temperature was obtained from in the patients' charts.

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

   Medical asepsis is defined as the destruction of disease-causing organisms. This only killing some of the organisms. Medical asepsis includes handwashing, cleaning to work environment. This includes the use of proper PPE. Surgical asepsis is the destruction of all organisms. For example, is a patient needs to have a urinary catheter inserted surgical asepsis needs to be done or the patient may develop a urinary tract infection. This is also needed during minor surgery, injections and specimen collection.

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 Area needs to be flushed with warm water as soon as possible. The supervisor needs to be notified as soon as possible. An incident report needs to made out including the date, time and details of the incident.
   When the incident is reported the employer must arrange for an immediate and confidential medical evaluation. An incident report must be filled. They must document how it happened, identify the testing source "individual" testing the employees blood if consent is giving, provide counseling, evaluating, treating, and following upon any

reported illness. Medical records must be kept for each exposed employee for the duration of employment plus 30 years.

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 to check a patient's height and weight regularly because it can be helpful in diagnosis. It helps ensure the provider and medical assistant are aware if there has been an increase or decrease that can be concerning. This may be due to an illness that needs to be addressed. Such as an increase in weight fast could be a sign of fluid retention. This could be very harmful in a patient with COPD or CHF. It can be a good indicator there id=s something wrong. It also is useful to be able to reference back to past weights to monitor an increase or decrease.

7. Describe proper handwashing technique, when should we wash and when is it appropriate to use alcohol based hand sanitizer?
   Clean under the finger nails with nail brush or orange stick, Remove all jewelry and watches, turn the water on to Luke warm, wet the hands apply soap washing in a circular motion with friction while holding your fingertips downwards, rub between the fingers, rinse well, holding the hands so the water is flowing from the wrist down to the fingers, dry hands with a paper towel by patting not rubbing, do not flick the water off your fingers. Turn the water off with a dry paper towel if not foot activated. Throw paper towel away. Make sure you wipe off the sink and counter leaving it clean and dry for the next person. You must wash your hands if they are visibly soiled. Alcohol based hands sanitizer can be used. Hand hygiene must be done using the proper technique before and after each patient is examined. According to the CDC proper hand washing must preformed before and after contact with patients, even if disposable gloves are worn. Before preforming an aseptic task, after contact with blood and bodily fluids or contaminated surfaces, and when hands move from a contaminated body site to clean

body site during patient care. Hand sanitizer can be used after taking off your disposable gloves for example.

8. Why is it improper to make a diagnosis of hypertension using only one blood pressure reading?
   It is improper to make a diagnosis of hypertension using only one blood pressure reading because there could be factors going on that increased the patients blood pressure reading. These can be things such a stress, feeling anxious, scared, having to walk always to get into the office, pain. If you diagnosis hypertension based off one reading and it was elevated due to some kind of interaction it would be the wrong diagnosis and treatment for hypertension could cause harm to the patent causing their blood pressure to drop to a dangerous low blood pressure. By obtaining and recording the blood pressure the medical assistant and or provider can reflex back and see it’s a new problem just happened that one time or it can show the increased blood pressure readings are true and have been elevated for 3 or more visits then start treatment safely.