

## MA111 Medical Assisting Lab I

### Critical Thinking 2

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#### 1. What are the components of a physical examination?

Components of a physical examination are to prepare the examination room, make sure it is clean and disinfected. Check to make sure all supplies are fully stocked and not outdated. Arrange any gowns and drapes and supplies before rooming the patient. Room the patient. Assist the patient, introduce yourself to the patient. Make sure all patient information is current and up to date. Take the patients vital signs and document in their chart. Ask the reason and symptoms for the visit. Explain any procedures that they may be having. Help the patient get into the position needed for examination if need be. Assist the provider, hand then any supplies or instruments needed for exam. Make sure lighting is in correct location. Label any specimens if needed, conduct any testing such as EKG is needed. Move the drape as needed during the exam. Make any follow up appointments needed and or any specialty appointments needed.

#### 2. Identify some barriers to communication and how does this impact the patient assessment?

Some barriers in communication can be hearing loss, language barrier, age, education background. For example, a patient from an Asian background would get upset if you make eye contact. If a patient does not speak English, they may need an interpreter to relay what the provider is saying. The age and education can pose barriers if the patient does not understand what is being said. Such as the use of medical terminology. Each patient must be handled as they need to be. These barriers can lay a big role in a patient not being able to take in the education or information that has been provided to them.

3. What is the medical assistant's role in preparing and assisting with the physical examination?

The medical assistant's role in preparing and assisting with a physical examination is to make sure the patient's health care records are current and up to date. Set the exam room up with instruments needed such as tuning fork, percussion hammer, otoscope, ophthalmoscope, tongue depressor. Obtain the patient's vital signs and document them. Obtain any specimens that may be needed. Conduct the questioning to get the chief complaint of the patient. They need to assist the patient with getting into the needed position if they need help. They should set up any instruments needed so that it is ready for the provider. They should help the patient get dressed after if need it. When assisting with a physical examination the medical assistant will help hand the provider any instruments needed. Keep the lighting in the right area so the provider has proper lighting. They may need to label specimens and date them as the provider hands them to him or her. The medical assistant should help reposition the patient and the drape as the examination is going on. They need to document information into the patient's record, conduct any testing that are trained to do such as an EKG. Last, they need to schedule any follow up appointments that the patient may need both at that office and specialty appointments as well.

4. Identify 5 instruments used in the physical examination and what are they used for?

5 tools used for a physical exam are a tuning fork used to check the bone conduction. A percussion hammer used to check reflex. An otoscope used to check the patient's ears. An ophthalmoscope used to check the eyes. A tape measurer used to measure head circumference.

5. Why is documentation in the medical record such an important part of preparing the patient for a physical examination?

Documentation is just as important part of preparing the patient because if it is not documented it did not happen. The documentation is a legal document and provides especially important information that can be used to track a disease or health condition. It can also be used to look back on to see if there is a new problem. Take hypertension for

example, the patients blood pressure should be reflexed back to the last 2 or 3 appointments before it is determined that they have HTN. It also contains information such as allergies to medications. This is especially important because you would not want to not add an allergy as it could lead to the patient going into anaphylactic reaction. The medical record contains a lot of information. This helps allow us to provider the best patient care possible.

6. Why is it important for the medical assistant to do a short inventory of each examination room at the end of the day and replace supplies as needed after each patient examination?

It is important for a medical assistant do a short inventory at the end of each day so at the start of the next day the rooms will be fully stocked for the morning patients. You would not want to room a patient and not have the supplies needed to treat them. Causing you to have to excuse you from the room to go get what is missing. This takes time way from the patient.

7. Why is it important for a medical assistant to be in the room when a female patient is being examined by a male physician or a male patient is being examined by a female physician?

]It is important for a medical assistant to be in the room when a physical exam is being by the opposite sex because it keeps the provider and patient safe as there can be accusations put out by the patient or provider of sexual contact. This way there is a witness to what is being done. It can also help make the patient and provider more comfortable by having the medical assistant in there as the opposite sex is being examined. This protects both the patient and the providers right to privacy and dignity as well as the doctor from complaints of molestation. It can also help the provider and patient feel safe.

