

MA211 Medical Assisting Lab III

Critical Thinking 3

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1. What types of medication should the medical assistant consider when obtaining a medical history. What information about these medications should be documented in the patient's chart?

When obtaining a patient's medical history, as a medical assistant you have to make sure you cover all bases when it comes to their medications. It is still very important to consider OTC medications, herbal supplements and of course prescribed controlled medications. If the patient agrees to taking any of these medications be sure to document what the medication is, how much are they taking, when they are taking it, how often they are taking it, and what are they taking it for.

2. Why is it important for medical assistants to use drug references to check medication that they are not familiar with?

When administering a medication you are not familiar with it is important to refer to the drug references for new up to date information such as drug interactions, new side effects and in some cases what the medication was prescribed for. As medical assistants we should use these drug reference guides versus the internet that way we know that the medication is FDA approved and the information provided is accurate and more than likely has been experienced or tested.

3. 3-year-olds twins Cody and Cole, have just been placed into foster care. They have no proof of any immunizations. What is the catch up schedule for these children?

Luckily for Cody and Cole, they are at the age where they can still be caught up on all immunizations that they potentially missed or have no records of. In order to be caught up the twins must receive each recommended vaccination received by the age of 3 every 4 weeks or every 28 days to be back on schedule.

4. Why is it important for medical assistants to know the laws and regulations regarding prescription and drug administration in the state of practice?

Not all medical assistants are allowed to calculate drug dosages in all states. This is why medical assistants should be aware of their state policies and procedures especially when it comes to medication administration. Medical assistants must follow both the state and agencies laws in order to be compliant.

5. Dr. Smith serves both pediatric and geriatric populations, summarize key items that should be considered in these specialties?

These two specialties are the most common in the healthcare field. When it comes to caring for these people the main concern is to make sure the patient understands where they are and what you are doing and what they are doing. Another important key item is the patient's consent, make sure they are ok with the procedure/visit and that they are comfortable and with pediatric patients they may not always understand so it's best to use pictures or language they will understand. When it comes to medications, be sure to triple check all orders before administration, with these types of patients their system is either still developing or has become weak so one mess up could affect their life drastically. Last but not least, be patient, they may be slow or not understanding what you are asking, or explaining so it is very important to be patient, be kind, and be understanding.

