

AAMA Student Essay Award

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2020 Essay Competition Excel Winner

Yolanda Estrada

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Essay Theme: *What is your vision for the future of medical assisting, and how will you contribute to providing safe and quality care for patients?*

As a future medical assistant, I am looking forward to such a rewarding career. To be a healthcare worker in these times can be scary yet challenging but it is a challenge that I am willing to accept. From clinical to administrative procedures, I admire the versatility. I have a passion for helping others and to be able to apply that passion towards patient care is exactly why I am here today. When I think of patient care, I think of the quality and safety that goes into it. In order to understand how to deliver the best care to patients, we must know what it consists of. As a medical assistant, I would utilize and apply my knowledge of patient care, to ensure the best safety and quality of care for my patients.

Communication is essential in delivering effective care. We want patients to feel comfortable and assure them that they would receive the best care possible. Communication with patients may come with barriers such as differences in language, education level, discomfort/anxiety, or even deafness. Each patient is unique and should be treated equal. Therefore, it is my responsibility as a medical assistant to overcome those barriers and find ways of communication that will suit each patient's individual needs.

Infection and control measures are also important to patient care. Personal hygiene, proper PPE, disinfecting and cleaning equipment are just a few ways that can prevent the spread of infection. For example, in the midst of this global pandemic, COVID-19 has created a challenge for everyone. We all have a role in slowing/stopping the spread of the virus. People that have contracted the virus, go to the hospital, and if not careful, the virus can spread to other susceptible patients. This can all be avoided if infection and control measures were taken. Therefore, as a medical assistant I will take every necessary precaution to practice safety measures, in order to break the chain of infection.

There is no room for error when it comes to patient care. If incorrect information is input on a patient's medical record, this is permanent and can cause incorrect diagnoses or treatments and even result in health insurance coverage being denied for a patient's treatment or procedure. If inaccurate prescriptions or dosages are given to patients, this could be a fatal error. As a medical assistant, it is important to stay alert and pay attention to every detail ensuring situations like this do not arise. Errors such as these, begin with the healthcare workers but we can do our part in avoiding errors and catching them before they even happen. Patients come to us expecting to get the care that they need but as a medical assistant I will give them the care and attention that they deserve. I am ready for the challenges and am looking forward to the success of my future in medical assisting.