

Technology in the Care of Others

Eva Ramos

A typical day at my job as a certified nurse's assistant (CNA) is very busy. I start my shift by looking over my schedule and reviewing reports of my patient's activities from the previous day. In this way, I can better assist my patients' needs and anticipate any problems that might arise.

Improved Prosthetic Devices

Just last week, I was preparing for my shift when I happened to hear one of my patients sobbing. I went to see what the problem was. Through tears, she informed me that her doctors had told her that she needed to have one leg amputated. I told her about another patient of mine who had been in a lot of pain and experiencing complications due to high blood pressure. He was told that his health would improve if his leg was amputated.

Technological advances have become a necessary and an integral part of my job at the rehabilitation center where I work.

Although this was a difficult decision for him, he decided to go ahead with the operation. Today with the help of physical therapy and the technology used in creating a prosthesis, his health

is better and he is a happier individual. I thought that it would benefit my patient to meet this individual, so she could have some perspective on how her life might improve. She has not made a decision about her surgery yet, but her demeanor has greatly improved.

Improved Communication Means Better Patient Care

Not only has technology advanced to create better prostheses for people, but technology has changed



my workplace so that now I have more time to spend talking with and caring for my patients. For example, we now enter assisted daily living (ADL) activities for each patient on the computer. ADL activities are: walking safely, dressing, and taking care of personal hygiene. Being able to read my patients' ADL activities on the computer gives me up-to-date information about what my patients' needs are so that I can better support them.

Technology has helped improve the accuracy of taking vital functions, such as temperature, pulse rate, and blood pressure. Once the vitals and the ADLs are entered on a computer, this information helps other personnel at the facility do their job. Also, this information, which is stored in the data base, provides hospitals with pertinent information concerning the individual.

Technological advances have become a necessary and an integral part of my job at the rehabilitation center. Thanks to technology I can do my job more efficiently and most importantly be an emotional support for my patients.

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