**Inside look of a Medical Assistant**

On August 31, 2016, I interviewed Marisol Hurtado. She is the medical assistant of an orthopedic surgeon in Porterville California. I decided to interview a medical assistant because it was the only thing close to a registered nurse. Marisol ended up giving me to sufficient information in regards to the working environment she is established in. I interviewed her in her office in Porterville.

The 50 minutes I was there, I learned that there are so many different code and abbreviations an assistant has to know. This makes it easier for the surgeon to talk to the assistant while he is operating on a patient. Not only that, but it is a quicker way to get the paperwork done on time. Another thing I noticed was that the assistant always has to be on her toes. I was able to see the different tools the surgeon uses on the patients. The names of each tool were so complex. One of the things I found fascinating was the fact that they do not take any paper work home. Some of the information is considered enclosed and they are forbidden to take a patients work back home, regardless if it is completely filled out or not.

Throughout the time I was able to talk to Marisol, I asked her a few questions. Some of the questions stood out more than others. One thing that did catch my attention was the fact that they do not get vacation. It is very rare when they are able to ask for vacation days. Not only that, but they do not get over time! I believe this is the reason why they do not allow vacation days. Another response I got was that the pay has minimized. In the beginning she was getting good pay due to the fact that she was new, but now, she is not getting enough money for the things she is doing in the office. While I was interviewing her she also mentioned that she is the manager of the office! This was very exciting to me because it is really rare when you are able to be the assistant and manager all at once in the surgeon offices. I understood the reason why she thought her pay was not sufficient for her.

One of the things I disliked about this job is the time. According to Marisol, there really isn’t time to be with the family. “I can’t really be with my girls as much because I work so much throughout the week” is what Marisol said during the interview. Another thing that I did not like was the fact that you do not work overtime. I think it is beneficial to have overtime, but not every day. In my opinion, the worker should be able to choose when to have overtime hours.

Overall, I am still interested in becoming a medical assistant, but I don’t think I would want to keep that job very long. I would like to get a higher position and study for a registered nurse due to the fact that they have a better chance in choosing the schedule of working than an assistant does. My experience with Marisol gave me the proper information in the medical field and I am very excited to be like her someday. One thing that I do have to work on is a proper attitude with the patients/ people in general.