

McSwain's Rules of Patient Care

1. *Death is your adversary and competitor — fight to win.*
2. *Treat the patient as if they were your mother, father or child.*
3. *Each minute has only 60 seconds. Do not waste any of them.*
4. *Assume nothing, trust no one, do it yourself.*
5. *Know anatomy cold.*
6. *Be technically quick.*
7. *Do not panic in the face of blood.*
8. *Work with physiology, not against it*
9. *Maintain energy production.*
10. *Know what to fix and what to leave alone.*
11. *Know when to run.*
12. *Paranoia prevents disasters.*
 - a. *The patient's disease is out to embarrass you.*
 - b. *The patient does not tell you the whole truth.*
 - c. *The most severe injury is under the unremoved clothes.*
 - d. *The infection is hidden by the dressing.*
 - e. *The patient has a problem that you do not know about.*
13. *Never talk a patient into or out of any operation.*
14. *The nurses' notes do not say what the nurse told you.*
15. *Do not procrastinate. Make a decision and carry it out.*
16. *Learn from your successes and from your failures.*
17. *Always question everything you do.*
18. *Don't whine, just get the job done.*

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