

Medical Professional Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) *What about medical licensure/malpractice issues while in Honduras?*

Because you are on a short-term volunteer trip in Honduras, obtaining a license to practice from the Honduran government is unnecessary. By Honduran law, a Honduran doctor will be on-site at each brigade and will assume all liability for medical practice. The Honduran doctor will also aid visiting physicians with local diagnoses.



- 2) *What is the structure of a typical brigade clinic?*

1st – Segregate and pack medications into suitcases the night before brigade. Physicians should supervise to ensure proper segregation and to note the medications available to them.

2nd – Drive to the brigade location after breakfast. The drive one-way may run 45 minutes to 3 hours.

3rd – Unpack medications from the truck and set up the pharmacy.

4th – Set up the other 4 areas of the brigade: Intake, Triage, Clinic, and Dental Station

5th – See patients. Will break for lunch. Continue to see patients until all are seen or until late afternoon.

6th – Repack truck with remaining medications.

7th – Drive back to hotel.

8th – Unpack truck.

9th – Re-pack suitcases with enough medications for the next day brigade.

3) *What is the Physician/Nurse/Pharmacist/Dentist's role at a Brigade clinic?*



- Physician – Set up your desk area with needed materials from the pharmacy (tongue depressors, BP cuff, stethoscope, otoscope, pens). Patients will arrive with a patient sheet partially filled out with name, age, and chief complaints. Mark your diagnosis and indicate medications to be dispensed at the pharmacy and include any specific instructions such as dosages. Indicate the need for a referral if applicable.
- Nurse – Can aid in Triage, Clinic or Pharmacy. In triage, would aid in taking blood pressure, blood glucose levels, and identifying chief complaints. In Clinic,

would operate similar to a physician (most medications prescribed are over-the-counter). In Pharmacy, would operate similar to the Pharmacist.

- Pharmacist – Ensure the pharmacy is set up correctly/efficiently. Aid students in identifying the correct medications and dosages. Indicate substitution medications should the pharmacy run out of a prescribed medication.
- Dentist – Set up the dental station with necessary supplies. Assign students to provide patients with dental health education while handing out toothbrushes and toothpaste. Work with Honduran dentists, if present, to extract decayed teeth from patients. Mark this on their patient sheets. Refer patients back to the clinic for pain medication if needed.
- Other – We welcome all form of medical professionals. We have had audiologists to 4th year medical students to optometrists accompany us on brigades. Please be sure to bring any necessary supplies with you needed to perform your specialty. Advise the Honduran brigade team of when you will be coming so that we can prepare the villages accordingly.
- All – Medical Professionals are NOT responsible for looking after student volunteers. The group leader and GMB staff are there to lead the way.

4) *How many patients are seen in a typical day clinic?*



A typical brigade will see between 300 and 600 patients in a day. There will on average be 3 – 5 physicians seeing patients.

5) *What are the most common types of complaints?*

Most complaints are similar to those seen in any primary care situation, with a few exceptions:

- Headache
- Upper Respiratory Infections/Bronchitis/Cough
- Abdominal discomfort (often parasites)
- Skin Infections (scabies, bacterial, fungal)
- Dizziness
- Body/Joint aches & pains
- Heart – 1st line meds are Atenolol and Hydrochlorothiazide
- Diabetes Mellitus – 1st line med is Metformin; Refer for DM teaching

6) *What are the most commonly prescribed medications?*

Please see the attached “Most Commonly Prescribed Brigade Medications” document.

7) *What if additional testing or follow-up is needed?*

Write a referral for the patient. They will be seen for free at the Santa Rosa de Lima Clinic, or can go to a closer clinic/hospital to their village if they wish.

8) *What if there is a medical emergency?*

The clinic only equipment on patients must reach the emergency medical clinic, the driven to the Care facility Member.



has primary care hand. Since most walk miles to clinic, we see few cases. In case of a emergency at the patient will be nearest Urgent by a GMB Staff