

Missions Ministries

Medical Team Guide



Thank you for your willingness to be a part of a medical team with Missions Ministries. Our mission is to transform lives and communities through short term mission teams—meeting spiritual needs, providing medical care, building homes and community infrastructure, and expanding educational opportunities for children.

You will be serving in a well-equipped clinic located in the Missions Ministries team center, providing basic medical care and health education to the people in the colonias. This is an invaluable opportunity to model the love of Christ and share the gospel.

General information

The clinic has four medical exam rooms, one optometry room, two dental rooms, a pharmacy, and a laboratory. The clinic is open three days a week by a local nurse, Adriana, and an American missionary nurse, Sarah. They provide year-round continuity of care through medication refills, follow-up care, and nursing care to patients with chronic and minor acute illnesses.

Clinic Staffing

At least one doctor (MD or DO) is required to open the clinic. A minimum of two medical professionals is preferred. As we strive to operate an American standard clinic, we ask that you keep non-medical staff to a minimum. To maintain inventory and ensure safe distribution of medications, Missions Ministries has full-time personnel on staff to operate the pharmacy. Only those with pharmacy experience will be allowed to assist in the pharmacy.

Clinic workflow

A Missions Ministries nurse will serve as a receptionist in the front office to check in patients. (Patients will be scheduled on a first-come first-served basis. When each day's limit is reached, the remaining patients will be asked to return the next day to be seen in the order they signed in.)

When called, the patient and their chart go to a room designated for triage where preliminary vitals and a chief complaint are taken and recorded in the chart. **Please designate a person from your clinic team to triage.**

The patient and their chart then go to exam room to be seen by the clinician.

If the patient requires medication, they will be escorted to the pharmacy waiting room. There is table space available in the pharmacy for each clinician to finish documentation.

After the clinician is finished documenting, the chart will be passed to the Missions Ministries staff RN in the pharmacy who will fill the prescription(s) and provide education on each medication.

The clinician is then free to see their next patient!

Teams are encouraged to bring their own prayer warriors. During clinic time, there is always a need and opportunity to pray with patients. Their spiritual well-being is just as important as their physical well-being.

Pharmacy

We strive to stock our pharmacy to fit the needs of the community we serve, and as that population grows, so does the need for the medications we dispense. With your help, we can ensure that we have sufficient medications on hand to care for each patient who walks through our doors.

Donations of narcotics will not be accepted, as we do not stock them in the pharmacy. It is illegal to carry them into Mexico unless they are prescribed to you.

To give you plenty of time to order prescription medications, **we will contact you via email a month in advance of your clinic with a request according to the medication and supply needs we have at that time.** Sometimes unanticipated needs arise in the interim, however, so you may receive a second email closer to your departure time with a few last-minute needs.

For teams that are flying, you may consider dividing the medications among the entire team, giving each team member a few medications to carry in their checked baggage.

Blessings International

Blessings International is an organization that provides reasonably priced medications and medical supplies for missions to places in the world where basic healthcare is lacking. Many teams choose to order their medications and supplies through Blessings. For more information, visit them online at www.blessing.org. Blessings does require that you are a 501C3 organization and they require your tax ID number. They have some very specific guidelines so read them carefully before you place an order.

Interpreters

Missions Ministries will assign one interpreter for each clinician who will be seeing patients independently (including triage), unless you are bringing interpreters of your own. Only interpreters who speak fluent Spanish please.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

Listed below are the equipment and supplies that we have in stock for each clinic team. We will contact you in advance of your clinic with a request list of any supplies that we are low on. If you anticipate needing something not listed below, please plan to bring your own.

Supplies

Soap and antibacterial hand gel	Betadine swabs
Surface disinfectant	Lubricant jelly
Cotton-tip applicators	TrueTrack glucose testing supplies
Cotton balls	Strep tests
Tongue depressors	Urine pregnancy tests
Tympanic and oral thermometer covers	Urine chemstrips
Personal protective equipment	Clean urine specimen cups
Disposable patient drapes and gowns	Hemocult screening
ACE wraps	Child-safe medication bottles
Wound dressing supplies	Medicine cups/droppers/spoon
Suture supplies	Medication labels
Syringes/needles	Infant bulb suction
Sterile water and NaCl solutions	AA and AAA batteries
Alcohol pads	

Equipment

SpO2 monitoring	Hgb A1C monitoring and supplies
BP monitoring	Microscope and slides
Thermometers	Ultrasound (ATL HDI-100 made in 1997, fair condition) and doppler
Scales	EKG machine and electrodes
Stethoscopes	Walkers/crutches
Otoscopes and covers	Autoclaves and supplies
TrueTrack glucometers	Nebulizers and supplies
HemoCue (Hb 201) and supplies	

Because we have no laboratory technician or pathologist on staff, laboratory testing is very limited. The only equipment or supplies available for lab testing are those listed above, so please plan accordingly.

Do's

Do remember it's always ok to offer prayer or counseling to a patient at any time during their visit!

Do include Adriana and Sarah in any decision regarding relocation or discarding of items. They will still be there after you are gone.

Do treat patients with the same privacy and respect as you would in your practice at home. Just as you wouldn't want a stranger standing in the doorway watching your doctor's appointment, neither do they! If you question whether it's appropriate, it probably isn't.

Do spend as much time as you need with each patient. While we are a task-oriented society, Mexico is relationship-oriented. Your time can sometimes mean more to them than the treatment you provide.

Don'ts

Don't bring donations of glucometers or test strips that are not TrueTrack brand.

Don't allow conflicts between each other to take place in front of patients or staff.

Don't give money or personal information to any Mexican patients or staff. If you feel there is a need, discuss it with your team leader and Missions Ministries staff.

More than anything, we want to thank you for your willingness to serve with us. Each clinician who comes down is a huge blessing to the community, and we hope you will also be blessed through this experience!

Please contact Sarah with any clinic-related questions:

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