

Cape Cares Medical Volunteer Responsibilities

Bring your personal diagnostic equipment: Stethoscope, diagnostic set, specialty surgical tools, specialty medications, flashlight, reference materials.

Set up medical examination station.

Familiarize yourself with the equipment available in the clinic.

Familiarize yourself with the medications in the pharmacy (see formulary list).

Assist the volunteer pharmacist with dispensing medications.

Offer reassurance to those patients with mild or self-limited conditions.

Treat disease in the simplest way possible. Cape Cares with our fixed budget is not able to afford US level of care. But we do bring life saving basic medical treatment to rural Honduras.

Perform efficient triage of the problems. The patients need you to distinguish what condition is life-threatening (now or later) from symptoms that may be bothersome but not serious. . There is NO REGULAR MEDICAL CARE available in these communities or at the hospitals, which is why we are here. For example, it will be of no use to send a patient with intermittent abdominal pain to a hospital for consultation. It will be important to immediately refer a patient with an acute abdomen to the hospital. Elective surgery or elective treatment are not available in Honduras.

Consult with Team Leader for operational and procedural functioning of the clinic. The team leader may make operational suggestions based on experience and knowledge of the Honduran community.

Perform an accurate inventory of medical clinic supplies and equipment on the final day so that Cape Cares can resupply the clinic for the next brigade.

Cape Cares Volunteer Pharmacist Responsibilities

Obtain the inventory sheets and procedure manual from the Trip Leader

Verify beginning inventory of Medication

Complete a thorough and accurate inventory on the last day of the trip. So that Cape Cares can resupply the pharmacy for the next brigade.

Unpack and organize medications

If you are unfamiliar with medications and what the medications you may arrange them alphabetically.

Insure that every clinician has the same medication formulary list that you have.

Package, label and dispense medications according to the medical and dental clinician's instructions.

Provide medication instructions to the patient, personally or through translator.

Update Clinicians daily on supplies of medications usage and remaining supplies. For example alert them when you are running out of Ibuprofen.

Clarify directly with the clinician if you are not certain of the medication or instructions.

Give daily verbal report to team leader on operation of the pharmacy and make any suggestions to keep things running well.