

Q: What type of Dental care is provided by the Operation Serve Clinic?

A: Cleanings, fillings, and extractions. Some of the National Dentists use Amalgams but mostly we only use light curing resins for fillings.

Q: Do I need to bring my own tools; is there a need for scalers, forceps, and elevators?

A: We have 3 portable dental units, 3 patient chairs, one cavitron, portable x-ray machine and an autoclave in Mexico. We have scalers, forceps, and elevators that are average to above average quality for standard use. If you have specialized tools that you prefer to use we encourage you to bring them with you. We always need donations of disposable scalpels.

Q: Will I be able to properly sterilize the tools I will be using?

A: Yes, you will. The mobile clinic is equipped with a Tuttnauer autoclave for sterilizing. There is also available Cidex or Gafidex

Q: What about Dental Anesthetics, do I need to bring this?

A: We provide the topical and injectable anesthetics. Anesthetics will be available with or without epinephrine. One package of 50 cartridges with epi is about \$10 and without is \$13, topical anesthetic is usually \$5 a jar.

Q: Are there high and low speed hand pieces available, what about burs for them?

A: There are 3 high speed and one low speed hand pieces available. It would be great if you could bring some burs.

Q: Do you need composites, temporary filling materials, cements, and liners?

A: There is always a great need for these items on the field. Any donation or recruitment of supplies for these items would be a great blessing.

Q: What are the most common problems that I will see on the field?

A: Caries, infections, gingivitis, and periodontal disease are the most common problems. Often this is the first dental visit that someone has ever been to. It is critical to teach each patient about oral health and help them get channeled to receive any care that they need. We encourage you to educate your patients about gum disease (especially those with diabetes). Most people desire to know how to better take care of themselves. There is a lot of discrimination against the poor in Mexico and most never receive the proper care for their ailments.

Q: Will I need a copy of my Dental License with me?

A: We do suggest that you carry a copy of your license with you and e-mail a copy to the OSI headquarters.

Q: Should I bring my own gloves, do you need any syringes, needles, or tongue blades?

A: Gloves, syringes, needles, and tongue blades are provided at the clinic, however because of the ongoing use and need of these items if you could bring anything to add to the supplies it would be great. If you use x-small or non-latex gloves, you should bring them. Some of the needles are of a small gauge, such as 25 and 30 short.

Q: Can you do x-rays at the clinic or is it all sent to a local hospital?

A: We have a portable x-ray machine, MINXRAY P200DMARKIII. If there's a problem we refer patients within the Christian network of dentists or to a local clinic for follow up.

Q: Should I bring any fluoride?

A: This would be great! Everyone would welcome a fluoride treatment for their children.

Q: What medication should I bring and how should it be packaged?

A: If you wish to bring medications we usually have a great need for antibiotics, analgesics, and anti-inflammatory agents. We recommend that you condense any samples that you have in order to carry more. Everything will be sorted into recommended doses on the field. Please maintain a medication insert sheet with any newly marked medications brought to the field.

Q: What about liquid forms of antibiotics and pain medications for younger patients?

A: we are in constant need of liquid forms of antibiotics and pain medications. You will be able to order and dispense through our mobile medical clinic and pharmacy any antibiotics needed for dental infections.

Q: What is the average number of patients I will see in a day?

A: The number of patients you will see is based upon each dentist and the complication of the problems present. Our staff is there for you and will help to maximize your time in the clinic. A good average is between 7 and 12 per day.

Q: If I am bringing my own tools, should I pack them in my carry on for safe keeping?

A: You will need to pack any scissors or sharp instruments in your checked bags.

Q: Should I bring glucometers and test strips for diabetes testing?

A: Bringing a machine with strips would be a great asset to the field. We generally have problems with getting strips for the machines.

**We are able to purchase from a Pharmaceutical company in country for most of the items and medications needed. This saves your team from purchasing in the USA at a higher cost and avoids the challenge of transporting these items. On average the \$900 worth of medicines needed for a week will purchase \$9,000 worth of medications. Few items are purchased in the states from resources such as Blessings International.

OSI is a 501(c)(3) federally tax exempt nonprofit that can provide a letter of receipt for any Dental companies or corporations that would like to donate tools or instruments to be used on the field. **We always need donations of disposable scalpels.

We look forward to serving with you on the field! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our offices at 513-939-2000.