

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR PAs IN THE SEATTLE AREA

Preceptors who already have a clinical affiliation with the University of Washington are needed to volunteer with University of Washington students. Students in the Community (SITC)-Aloha Health Outreach Center is an interdisciplinary student-run free clinic for the residents of a transitional housing facility at the Aloha Inn (located on Aurora Ave) in Seattle. Up to seventy men and women live there for up to nine months and have a wide range of medical and social service needs. The clinic is run and managed by students from eight UW health science schools: MEDEX, Pharmacy, Social Work, Public Health, Information Technology, Nursing, Dentistry and Medicine. Administrative support comes mainly from the University of Washington Center for Health Sciences & Interprofessional Education. (<http://interprofessional.washington.edu/sitc/>)

The SITC walk-in clinic is held at the Aloha Inn from 2:30-4:30pm the first and third Sunday of each month. Generally there are 4-5 students plus a student clinic manager and a preceptor (Physician, PA, NP) in attendance. On average the clinic sees 4-6 residents each week regarding general health issues, referrals to community resources and health education. Student volunteers perform all clinic tasks. No medications are given out, including OTCs. This is not meant to be a primary care clinic but to facilitate residents getting care at local clinics. The Health Center has gone to great lengths to create a strong referral network, including the creation of a Tuesday night clinic at Harborview specifically for its patients and those of one other student organization

Some common clinic tasks include:

- General health screening, including review of risk factors for and symptoms of hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, dermatologic concerns, depression or other psychiatric illness, HIV and hepatitis, substance abuse, and domestic violence;
- Focused physical exams, when appropriate;
- Health education, ranging from pamphlets to one-on-one behavior modification counseling;
- Referral services to local community health clinics, social services, and--rarely--to the emergency department.

The role of the preceptor includes:

- Listening to student presentations, providing feedback on assessment and care plans, and reviewing student-written notes;
- Reviewing patient charts (during slow clinic times) for teaching opportunities and errors in care plans (if a preceptor could not be present during a previous week).
- Providing teaching pearls during times in between patients

Preceptors are relied on only for their clinical expertise, and are not expected to assume any administrative responsibilities, chart, or to follow patients outside of clinic. The insurance coverage for the clinic is through the University of Washington, which extends to UW-affiliated preceptors and to students. Since direct patient care is not provided, PAs do not need to have a clinical preceptor for this volunteer activity.

We welcome you to be as involved as you wish. Join us once, once a quarter, or once a month! We greatly appreciate any time you feel you can commit to this unique project. For more information,

http://depts.washington.edu/uwsitc/index.php?title=SITC-Aloha_Health_Outreach_Center

Students in the Community General Information: uwsitc@u.washington.edu
Current PA preceptor: Grace Landel, PA-C (glandel@u.washington.edu)