

Caregiver Role Description

Caregivers play an important role on a surgical mission team, they are non-medical team members who will serve by caring for patients in the recovery ward as nurses' assistants. Shifts will be assigned by the team leader or head nurse and are 8 AM-4 PM, 4 PM-12 PM or 12PM-8 AM.

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Assure that patients have water and/or refill their water bottles.
 - Note: patients may not eat or drink after midnight the night before their surgery. Post-operatively caregivers can provide water to patients once they have been relocated to their assigned bed in the ward.
- Assist patients as they walk to and from the bathroom.
- Assure that patient gowns and bed sheets are clean and change as needed or requested
 - Note: The Guatemalan staff will change sheets for patients on a schedule. Caregivers assist in this role as needed, for spills or otherwise soiled sheets, etc.
- Help move patients from the gurney to their assigned bed. Nurses will explain the procedure for moving patients. Caregivers should pay attention to when patients are being moved and be available to help with this without being sought out for help.
- Once patients are moved off a gurney caregivers will remove soiled linens and clean the gurney. Once it has been cleaned it should be returned to the front of the nurses' station or hallways near Operating Room in preparation for the next patient.
- Caregivers who are able may be asked to take patient vital signs and record this information in the patient chart. Nurses will provide any necessary training and instruction related to this job.
- When things are slow in the recovery ward caregivers should look for ways to pamper patients. Hand and foot massages, braiding hair, reading children's books or the Bible, praying and simply sitting and visiting with patients are all great suggestions.
- Prayer is an important piece of Health Talents' ministry to the patients we serve. Caregivers should make sure that each patient has been prayed with. Although many team members do not speak the same language as the patients, this is not an issue for prayer. Patients understand that they are being carried to the throne of God and will more often than not pray right along with the team member praying over them.