

Translator Role Description (Clinica Ezell)

Translators play a vital role on dental, medical and surgical teams. They are responsible for facilitating communication between the visiting team and the Health Talents International Guatemala staff as well as between the USA team and the patients.

There are several areas in which translators work with the team. Most translators will rotate between these areas and will often work a longer day than most team members. Each area in which translation help is needed on a team is outlined below. Translators who join a trip should be prepared to assist with translation in any or all of these areas. Each day the HTI team leader will schedule translators for the different areas. The clinic, anesthesia and OR translation can all be done by the same person, while the recovery ward translators will mainly stay in the ward.

- Clinic Visits:** Each afternoon patients arrive at Clinica Ezell to be screened by the surgeons and scheduled for surgery the following day. Translators will facilitate communication between the surgeons and their patients during these clinic evaluation sessions. The clinic visits typically begin around noon and continue between surgeries throughout the afternoon.
- Anesthesia:** Anesthesia providers have a conversation with each patient before they are taken back to the operating room. Translators will assist the anesthesia providers in communicating with the patients to answer specific questions about allergies, previous surgery, etc. **The anesthesia provider or translator should offer to pray with each patient at this time** before the patient is taken back to the operating room.
- Operating Room:** Translators will accompany the anesthesia provider and patient to the operating room to help facilitate communication between the two while anesthesia is being given. This will often require the translator to wear a hair net and face mask in order to enter into the sterile OR environment. (Be sure to familiarize yourself with OR etiquette guidelines posted on each OR door.) Once the patient has received their anesthesia and surgery is starting to take place the translator may leave the OR and will only be needed on an on-call basis in case something needs to be communicated to a patient during surgery.

Recovery Ward: The translators scheduled for work in the recovery ward will mainly stay in recovery and infrequently be called to other areas. Translators in recovery work mainly with nurses to help them communicate with patients who are recovering from surgery and the local nursing staff. Translating in the recovery ward comes in waves, there are moments where the translators name is being called out from all over the ward and moments where the translator can sit and visit with team members or patients. Our only request is that translators scheduled for recovery stay at their post throughout the day so that when the need arises they are there to help.

Mobile Medical: Translators may also be asked to attend mobile medical and dental clinics to translate for dentists, dental hygienists, and primary care providers. This job consists of leaving with the mobile medical team at 8am from Clinica Ezell and driving anywhere from 15 min to an hour away to a clinic site. The translators will help the providers interview patients and explain treatments.

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