



Service. Healing. Transformation.

One World Surgery General Surgeon Informational Packet

Facilities and Staffing

One World Surgery funds and operates the ambulatory surgery centers in Honduras and the Dominican Republic.

- Honduras: The Holy Family Surgery Center has three operating rooms, one procedure room, 14 consult of which 6 are overnight bays, two private consult rooms, a physical therapy space, imaging room, and dental and eye clinics and the Moscati visitor center which house up to 70 volunteers. Dr. Merlin Antunez, an orthopedic surgeon, is the full-time, on-site Medical Director, Dr. David Vargas is the on-site Clinical Operations Director. Watch this [video](#) for a view inside the center.
- Dominican Republic: This site includes an ambulatory surgery center with three operating rooms, 28 Same Day Surgery bays, with capabilities of 14 overnight, Primary Care clinic with 8 bays, one procedure room, three private consult rooms, two ophthalmology consult rooms. and the Sienna Center, our visitor center, which can house up to 70 volunteers. OWS has been hosting primary care missions in the nearby communities since 2019, and surgical missions began in 2024. Dr. Joice Morillo, an orthopedic surgeon, is the full-time, on-site Medical Director and Joanna Sun is the Operations Director. Watch this [video](#) for a view inside the center.

A typical OR team includes one surgical tech, one circulating nurse, and one to two anesthesia providers. You are welcome to bring your PA, MA, resident, or recruit your own OR team, especially if you prefer additional surgical assists. Your team may include other mission volunteers and/or our local staff. Local anesthesia techs are not trained to perform regional blocks. For this reason, we will recruit at least one U.S. anesthesiologist whenever possible. Local interpreters provide English- Spanish interpretation, as well as guidance on local culture and context.

Clinical Scope

The OWS ambulatory surgical centers provide free, safe, high-quality surgical care. Scheduled, elective surgeries are performed during normal business hours. The OWS sites do not offer any emergency services, surgical or otherwise. If an emergency arrives at a center, the patient is stabilized and transferred to the nearest hospital. Procedures requiring multiple night stays or urgent second stages are generally not permitted.

No surgeon will perform any procedures beyond their active privileges in the US. In addition, some procedures (as defined below) are outside the scope of our center. Surgeons should not perform any procedures beyond their skill or comfort level in an ambulatory setting.

Specialties

Through the support of medical mission teams, OWS is able to perform more complicated cases and expand the available specialties. Most specialties are scheduled at least 3 times per year.

OWS currently provides surgical services in the following specialties:

- Orthopedics (HN, DR)
- Otolaryngology (ENT) (HN)

- General (HN, DR – no laparoscopic procedures at this time)
- Urology (HN)
- Gynecology (HN)
- Ophthalmology (HN)
- Surgical oncology (HN)
- Spine (HN)

Patient Selection and Scheduling

The OWS surgical centers provide free surgeries to patients who would otherwise not have access to high-quality surgical care. Patients are selected based on financial and clinical need. Most patients are adults from surrounding communities, though patients come from all over the country.

With regularly scheduled medical missions, OWS is able to meet the demand for services. Guidelines exist to prioritize cases and limit daily patient volume. These guidelines also ensure sustainable work schedules for our staff and allow patients to travel home safely before dark.

General Medical Mission hours: 7:00am – 5:00pm

Clinic hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

First surgery begins: 7:00 am

Last patient leaves OR: 4:00 pm

Variability in cases may require flexibility in these hours.

Surgeons typically spend 3 days in the operating room and 2 days in clinic. Seeing patients in clinic helps line up surgical cases for future missions. All postoperative follow-ups are performed by our Medical Director or general physicians. In the Dominican Republic, surgeons should expect to spend up to 2 days in clinic and 2 days in the operating room as surgical volumes increase.

About one to two weeks prior to the mission, the local scheduling team will contact surgeons to begin discussing the surgical schedule. Surgeons perform surgeries within their typical scope of practice and should notify the local team if proposed cases fall outside their current scope.

Generally, surgical schedules are confirmed the week before the mission. For some specialties, clinic patients may be added to the surgical schedule the same week. During orientation and at the end of the first day of surgery, there will be a discussion regarding the possibility of adding or removing patients. The Medical Director and Clinical Operations Director will ultimately determine the center's capacity to perform additional surgeries.

General Surgery at OWS

Common Types of Surgeries Performed at OWS – note country for procedures

- Hernia repair (inguinal, umbilical, ventral, incisional)- in DR no big ventral or abdominal
- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy – HN only
- Hydrocele repair (symptomatic)
- Mass excision (with local or general anesthesia)
- Treatment for gynecomastia _HN only
- Circumcision (for phimosis only)
- Thyroidectomy and partial thyroidectomy –HN only

Types of Surgeries Not Performed at OWS

- Gastro-intestinal procedures
- Hernia repairs expected to require multiple night stays
- Surgeries for patients with BMIs > 50
- Emergency procedures (*appendectomy)

Typical Schedule for Visiting General Surgeons

- Three days in the operating room and two days in clinic.
- Patients will be evaluated by a general surgeon on a previous medical mission or in clinic prior to surgery.

| Type of Day | Full Day |
|-------------|---|
| Clinic | 25-30 patients |
| Surgery | 4-5 cases depending on approx. length of case |

Supplies, Equipment, Medications

The center is stocked with basic medical-surgical supplies and specialty packs for every procedure. Most supplies are purchased in the U.S. and transported via shipping containers a few times a year. Suture, hardware, and implants are mostly donated, and inventory is limited. We recommend bringing donations of your preferred items. Previous general surgeons have recommended bringing mesh for ventral hernias. You may also wish to bring your preferred surgical gloves and masks.

If you have any questions about our supplies or equipment, contact Tiffany Healey, our Director of Clinical Services and Quality at tiffany.healey@oneworldsurgery.org

If you plan to bring any supplies or medications with you and/or to solicit vendors for any donations, please contact Michael Fry at michael.fry@oneworldsurgery.org

There is a customs process in the Dominican Republic that requires OWS to register all donations with the customs office by 25 days prior to the trip. We cannot accept any expired items, and we request the ability to pre-approve all medical donations to ensure the items can be used at our facility. If the items can be used at our center, our team can provide you with a customs letter.

Equipment is primarily donated and may be a couple of models older than what you typically use. Some tests and medications are unavailable in the country or cost prohibitive to our patients. Our local team can recommend alternatives.

- See general and specialty-specific equipment [here](#)
- See instrument sets [here](#)

Additional Information

Due to the emphasis on providing safe, high-quality care, OWS has strict guidelines regarding nonmedical volunteers observing and scrubbing in on surgeries. Volunteers must be at least 15 years old to observe and at least 18 years old to scrub. All nonmedical volunteers are

considered general volunteers and will be permitted to observe or scrub only during assigned shifts.

Contacts

For clinical questions, please contact Tiffany Healey, our Director of Clinical Services and Quality, at tiffany.healey@oneworldsurgery.org.

For more information on medical mission trips, visit <https://oneworldsurgery.org/medical-mission/> or contact the Medical Missions team (medicalmissions@oneworldsurgery.org)