



Service. Healing. Transformation.

One World Surgery Dentist Informational Packet

Facility and Staffing

Honduras

One World Surgery's Holy Family Surgery Center (HFSC) is a permanent, modern, and clean facility modeled off U.S. ambulatory surgical centers. It has 3 operating rooms, 7 clinic/overnight bays, and dental and eye clinics. Watch this [video](#) for a view inside the center. Dr. Merlin Antúnez, HFSC's Medical Director, performs orthopedic surgeries year-round with the support of over 60 local staff. Ester Rivas is the Administrative Director.

Dr. Karen Chan and Dr. Dilcia Rodriguez provide high-quality preventative and restorative dental care to the NPH and local communities year-round in HFSC's dental clinic. They will support and work alongside you in the dental clinic during your medical mission. Dr. Chan speaks English fluently and can support with translation, as well as cultural context to further your understanding of the communities we serve in Honduras. Additional translators will be provided, if needed.

The clinic has 4 dental or operating chairs which can all be used by a visiting dental team, if needed. Depending on the patient's need and operating room availability, 1 operating room in the surgery center may be used for oral surgery. This would need to be discussed with OWS's Clinical Operations Director prior to the trip.

While volunteering with One World Surgery, your team may include other medical mission volunteers and/or our local staff. Appropriate tasks for nonmedical volunteers will be determined by Dr. Chan and the visiting dental team. Our local dentists are accustomed to working without an assistant or hygienist. You are encouraged to bring your own dental team if you prefer to work with dental assistants and/or hygienists. Depending on the anticipated procedures, it may also be recommended to bring an anesthesiologist comfortable with pediatric dental services.

Dominican Republic

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](#) to learn more about the history of the Dominican Republic surgery center.

The needs assessment for dental services in the Dominican Republic are still underway and there is not yet a dental clinic onsite.

Clinical Scope

No volunteer 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. Dentists and visiting

dental teams should not perform any procedures beyond their skill or comfort level in an ambulatory setting.

Your dental license and diploma must be uploaded via your online application 12 weeks prior to your trip so that your visit can be registered with the College of Dental Surgeons of Honduras.

Specialties

There is a high need for dental care in Honduras, and the One World Surgery team welcomes a variety of dental specialties including orthodontics and oral surgery. Dental teams are invited to join our scheduled surgical or primary care medical mission trips as volunteer availability and spacing permit.

Patient Selection and Scheduling

One World Surgery provides free dental services to patients who would otherwise not have access to high-quality dental care. Patients are selected based on financial and clinical need. Patients come from all over the country, and ages range from young children to adults.

With our onsite team and visiting dental teams, One World Surgery works 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: 8:00am – 4:00pm

Schedule may vary and is determined together with the onsite dental team in preparation for the medical mission week.

Dr. Chan develops the patient's schedule a month before your trip. There is an orientation at the surgery center and dental clinic, typically on Sunday, during which you will meet with Dr. Chan to review the supplies and equipment and the schedule for the week.

Dentistry at One World Surgery

Common Types of Dental Procedures Performed at HFSC

- Cleanings
- Fluoride
- Fillings
- Extractions
- Roots Canals (front teeth including premolars)
- Minor Surgeries
- Pediatric crowns
- Resolution of infectious processes

Types of Dental Procedures Not Performed at HFSC

- Teeth Whitening
- Root Canals (molars)
- Dental surgery in the gums
- Bone graft surgery
- Periapical surgeries
- Complicated (wisdom teeth)

- Orthodontic treatment
- Bridge
- Removable prosthesis
- Fixed prosthesis
- Total prosthesis
- Maxillary and mandibular fractures

Typical Schedule for Visiting Dentists

- Five days in the dental clinic
- Dr. Chan sees about 5-7 patients per day during non-medical mission weeks. The patient schedule is determined prior to the trip in coordination with the onsite dental team.

Supplies, Equipment, Medications

The dental clinic is stocked with basic dental supplies such as paper goods, curing lights, suction tips, composite materials and bonding materials.

While many supplies will be available on-site, visiting dentists are encouraged to bring the following and any special items desired:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • Dental floss | • Burs | • Root canal sealer |
| • Toothbrushes | • Vitrebond | • Portable electrocautery |
| • Toothpastes | • Bonding | • Periosteal elevators |
| • Prophylactic brush | • Etching gel | |
| • Anesthetics 2% | • Composite | |
| • Anesthetics 3% | • Endodontic files | |
| • Anesthetic 4% | • Gutta percha | |

Any supplies or instruments for your personal use during the medical mission can be labeled. Some hygienists have preferred to bring their own instruments and Cavitron, as we have a limited number of these available. You may also wish to bring your preferred gloves and masks. Donations of toothbrushes, dental floss, and toothpaste are always needed to give away to our patients.

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 Honduras that requires OWS to register all donations with the customs office by 45 days prior to the trip. We also 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 assist with any and 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 Honduras or cost prohibitive to our patients. Our local team can recommend alternatives.

Additional Information

Due to the emphasis on providing safe, high-quality care, One World Surgery has strict guidelines regarding nonmedical volunteers observing and scrubbing in on medical and dental procedures. All nonmedical volunteers are considered general volunteers and will be permitted to observe or support the dental team only during assigned shifts. Any exception must be approved by Dr. Chan.

Contacts

Dr. Karen Chan (Whatsapp: +504-9962-1510) is One World Surgery's onsite full-time dentist. After reading this specialty informational packet, please feel free to contact her with any additional questions regarding dentistry at our facility.

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